

Teddington Circuit Worship at Home Sheets

Sunday 8 November 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you. With thanks to David Innes, Joyce Pegg, Tim Coveney and the Connexional team for their input.

Opening Prayer

Remembrance Sunday is a time to remember those who lost their lives in the conflicts of the 1st and 2nd world wars and to remember all those whose lives were changed by those conflicts and the many conflicts since. It is also a time to remember all those around the world whose lives have been lost or changed because of the conflicts of the world since 1945/6. Today, many people within this nation and around the world will gather at Memorials on which are engraved the names of those who did not return to the community from which they left. It will be a different form of remembrance today due to the Covid 19 restrictions but people will still gather to remember. As we do so today we pray for all who continue to work for peace within our divided and fractured world.

Hymn: For the healing of the nations.

StF 696, HP 409

listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYFwJitauAM>

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,

all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;

for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

Let us pray together

Creator God

You were there at the beginning of time:

You are in each new day as the sun rises on the horizon

You are in the quietness at the close of day

In the velvety darkness of the night skies

You are in all the earth

In the poppies and the bright flowers of the field

In the rolling seas and the dew on the grass

In all the places we love

In the times and the seasons, we love.

And in all creation, you remember us.

Gracious God, we are sorry:

We think we are right and our cause is just

We forget that many times we are wrong

We pick a fight, hold a grudge

We forget to live in peace;

We protect ourselves and our lifestyles

We forget the cost to others and to your creation

We are fearful of the future

We forget your promises

Forgive us for forgetting your ways and priorities

Help us to get back on track.

We remember all that you have done for us,

For the life we have in Jesus

Who points us towards you

And who opened our eyes so that we might know you better.

Jesus who lived and died and was raised

So that we might know we are forgiven

We thank you for the Holy Spirit

Living among us

Living in us

Reminding us of your truth and peace.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Today's Reading from the Old Testament Micah 4 v 1

- 4

Today's Gospel Reading: John 15 v 9 - 17

Time to Reflect

"What we need is another war!" This is one of the strangest comments that has ever been shared with me on a pastoral visit. Twenty-five years ago, I was visiting the husband of one of my church members when I was in Scotland. He been in the North African campaign in the Second World War and looked back fondly on the comradeship that he had experienced. Everyone had a common aim and was pulling in the same direction. He showed me photographs of himself in the desert with his comrades. For him, remembering was important. He only ever came to church on Remembrance Sunday. As he looked on the social disintegration that he saw around him in the early 1990s, he said, "What we need is another war". He'd had a good war and wanted to remember it.

My maternal grandfather fought in the trenches in the First World War. He was one of 10,000 prisoners of war in the camp at Langensalza. I only know this because the dates are written in the front of a Bible that he had with him. He never talked about it. He didn't want to remember. Remembrance Sunday was the only Sunday that he didn't go to church. He worked for most of his life on the trams in Sunderland. The Corporation gave him a beautiful, coloured certificate when he came back from the war. It is still in pristine condition. He didn't display it. He kept it wrapped in brown paper. He'd not had a good war and he didn't want to remember.

When I began my ministry, it felt as if Remembrance Sunday was dying out. An aging group of old soldiers gathered at the war memorial each year to remember. Soon, there would be no one left to do to the remembering. One of my members had been a keen cine film maker after the war. I spent an evening with him watching some highlights from his collection. Town galas were a prominent feature, as was Remembrance Sunday. There was the parade of cadets to the war memorial. It went on and on and on. So many were there. All had been personally touched by the war.

I grew up in the Cold War. It was a time of great fear, but little actual conflict. War was something that you

learned about in history. Whilst our armed forces have always been needed somewhere in the world, and there have always been fatalities, they were comparatively few. The same has not been true of the 21st century. In recent years, the numbers gathering to remember have increased. One year, I stood next to a colleague whom I only vaguely knew. I thanked him for coming. "I couldn't do anything else", he said. "My son died in Afghanistan". The reality of war had hit his family hard.

The First World War was the Great War, the war to end all wars. If only that last statement was true. The First World War was so brutal that politicians in the 1930s did everything that they could do avoid another one. We look back on appeasement as weakness. To them, it was their best attempt to avoid something far worse. Although it had its horrors and deeply affected many families, the Second World War was comparatively a good war. Hindsight makes us wonder why we weren't ready to engage in it earlier.

Robin Jenkins' novel, "The Cone Gatherers", depicts life in a Scottish forest during the Second World War. Those who are unable to fight or are conscientious objectors are there to collect the pine cones before the forest is cut down for the war effort so that it can be replanted. It is a place of great tranquillity where it is hard to remember that there is a war on. It is a place of hope where the seeds for rebuilding life after the war are being collected. Despite the peace and hope, there is tension between the characters which builds and leads to a murder. External peace isn't enough. Peace has to begin in our own hearts. As we remember the great sacrifices in wartime, let's also remember the old song and make it our prayer, "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me".

Take a time to sit quietly

An act of remembrance - to be carried out at 11 AM

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

2 minutes silence

*When you go home, tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow we gave our today
We will not break faith with you*

Ever-living God we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring

justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We keep a time of silence

Our prayers

Jesus, come among us as bringer of hope. We pray for the life of the world, for its diversity of culture and experience and life and faith. We pray for this world, for its leaders, and pray that all may work for justice and peace throughout the world.

Jesus come among us as bringer of healing. We pray for those whose lives have been and continue to be affected because of the conflicts of our world. We pray for those who through their skill in medicine bring healing to many people. We pray for all those who work in the conflict zones of the world as they seek to bring medical care in difficult circumstances.

Jesus come among us as bringer of light. We pray for hope for our world. We give thanks for the many people who bring light and hope into their world. We pray for the Church as we seek to discover more of the hope that God sets before us. We pray that the light of the risen Christ will give hope, as light shining in the darkness.

Jesus come among us as bringer of peace. In the unresolved questions that this day brings, may we find peace. In bringing the memories of those who have died, may we find peace. In the world in which we live today, may we find peace.

We bring our prayers in Jesus name. Amen

Hymn: Listen to Graham Kendricks song 'Beauty for Brokenness' StF 693 or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYadhF9J-d4>

Beauty for brokenness,
hope for despair,
Lord, in your suffering world
this is our prayer.

Bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset,
your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives,
cures for their ills,
work for all people,
trade for their skills;

land for the dispossessed,
rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause
of those who can't speak.

God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love
from a spark to a flame.

Refuge from cruel wars,
havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary,
freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing-fields,
scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness,
his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned --
our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
carelessness, greed;
make us content with
the things that we need.

Lighten our darkness,
breathe on this flame
until your justice burns
brightly again;
until the nations
learn of your ways,
seek your salvation
and bring you their praise.

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

A prayer of blessing

Creator God, we commit to you the needs of the whole world. Where there is hatred, give love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is distrust, faith; where there is sorrow, hope, where there is darkness, light. And may the blessing and peace of God remain with us, with those for whom we have prayed, and all we remember today who are and have been caught up in the conflicts of this world. Amen.

Original Materials by **Philip Wagstaff**

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