

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021 Remembrance Sunday

## **WELCOME**

God invites us into His Presence this morning as we come to worship the One who remains unchanging throughout all the changing seasons of our lives. He offers to be our refuge and strength in all our troubles as much as He offers to be with us in all our joys. We sing

### **HYMN 36 God is our refuge and our strength (4 verses)**

God is our refuge and our strength  
In straits a present aid  
Therefore although the earth remove  
We will not be afraid

Though hills amidst the seas be cast  
Though waters roaring make  
And troubled be yea though the hills  
By swelling seas do shake

A river is whose streams make glad  
The city of our God  
The holy place wherein the Lord  
Most high hath his abode

God in the midst of her doth dwell  
Nothing shall her remove  
God unto her an helper will  
And that right early prove

**Psalm 46: 1-5 The Scottish Psalter 1929**

### **PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION**

God of our ancestors, of our contemporaries, God of our children and children yet unborn– the faithful, never changing, ever present God. we worship you

God of our land, of all the earth, of the whole created universe – in the perfection of its intricate minutiae and its extraordinary vastness, artistic, God we worship you

God of ages past, of the now and the years to come – ever loving, ever longing, arms outstretched God we worship you.

God of all people, all places, all time and eternity whose love cannot be limited, whose peace passes understanding, we remember your grace, we celebrate your promises and rejoice in giving you thanks today.

And yet Lord God we have failed to be influenced by your love, our lives creating mini wars in the places we inhabit. You encourage us to come to you our forgiving God that we might know newness of life, and in turn our world might become a better place. *(Let us clench our hands into fists as we remember the things we have done which are wrong and then open our hands as we say together "We are sorry Lord.")*

For the times when we choose to hurt others and not to love them ***We are sorry Lord***

When we forget you and think that we know best. ***We are sorry Lord***

When we are quick to be mean or judge others ***We are sorry Lord***

When we ignore the needs of those around us. ***We are sorry Lord***

When we want to pay back wrong with more wrong. ***We are sorry Lord***

When we cause harm to ourselves and to others. ***We are sorry Lord and ask for your help to live in your light and walk in your path for Jesus sake*** in whose words we say Our Father who art in Heaven Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done On earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom the power and the glory forever. Amen

## **READING**

**John 15:9-17**

**Read by Mr Keith Miller Provost**

<sup>9</sup>I love you just as the Father loves me; remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. <sup>13</sup>The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them. <sup>14</sup>And you are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because servants do not know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because I have told you everything I heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name. <sup>17</sup>This, then, is what I command you: love one another.

## **HYMN JP 303**

### **A new commandment**

A new commandment, I give unto you,  
That you love one another as I have loved you,  
That you love one another as I have loved you.  
By this shall all know that you are my disciples:  
If you have love one for another;  
By this shall all know that you are my disciples:  
If you have love one for another.

**From John 13, Roy Crabtree**

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## REFLECTION

The poppy – 100 years old this year. A symbol of Remembrance, of sacrifice, of hope. A symbol of LOVE.

**Red** signifies the blood that has been shed down through the years, tears that have been shed too for the people who have died, who have been wounded, tears from family and friends.

**Green** the symbol of hope, new life, new growth arising from the selfless actions of those who have taken the words of Jesus to heart whether they know that they come from Jesus or not **John 15:13** “*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.*” Many have laid down their lives not just for their friends but for those they don’t know.

**The black** centre a symbol of the selfishness of people, the greed of people, the desire of people to be in control of others, the symbol of the me first I’m the most important culture, the symbol of sin, wrong doing, of individual wrong doing, corporate, national and international wrong doing. The reason that wars exist in the first place.

Sin, not easily eradicated, for our natures are too selfish. Yet all is not lost. Christians believe that **God showed His love for us by sending His only Son into the world so that we might have life through Him. This is what love is, not that we have loved God but He loves us and sent His Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven (1 John 4:9,10)**

The cross – over 2000 years old. A symbol of Remembrance, of sacrifice, of hope. Fractured relationships with God lead to fractured relationships with others. On the cross Jesus took all the sin of the world, but let’s make it personal, He took my sin and died. But death was not the end. By coming back to life Jesus, through His Holy Spirit, is now able to be present in the world, in people’s lives always and forever. His Presence brings hope of new life. Hope of new life where LOVE; His love is offered to all who are willing to accept it. ***It is a love that never gives up, cares more for others than for self. A love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have, that doesn’t strut, doesn’t have a swollen head, doesn’t force itself on others, isn’t always “me first,” doesn’t fly off the handle, doesn’t keep a score of the sins of others, doesn’t revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8 The Message).***

His Presence in our lives offers us the hope of this love becoming ever more apparent in our lives, and loves. A life and love which brings the hope of peace to our world.

To return to poppies – *and please say together the words which appear on the screen.*

Poppies grow best where the earth has been disturbed, churned, turned. Where footprints and boot-marks have raised the soil in ridges and patterns and it is no longer packed down and neat in a field. Where scabbling hands and feet have clawed the earth and thrown it all around.

**Where there has been disruption, there the poppies grow.**

Poppies grow healthy where there is light and rain and space. When the noise and bustle, the tremors and terrors, the humans and the weapons have gone away. Where the disrupted soil now receives some peace and the sunlight can warm the earth again. **Where there is new peace there the poppies grow.**

Poppies grow brightly coloured in the brownest of soils. Like flags flying on a solitary hill, they spring up from the disrupted and peaceful earth, the dull brown soil the foundation for these rays of hope. And there they speckle the landscape with new colours bright, different, refreshing.

**Where there is hope, there the poppies grow.**

Poppies emerge, in disrupted fields, in manicured gardens, woven into wreathes and pinned on our lapels. Symbols not to celebrate the disruption of war but worn as tiny, vibrant, colourful, signs sprouting forth from disrupted earth, signs to us of gratitude, of new peace, the new world, the new hope

**Signs to us of gratitude, of new peace, the new world, the new hope**

This new life that Jesus offers was found to be true and lasting by our next hymn writer. The offer which he talks of as being an Amazing Grace.

#### **HYMN 555            Amazing grace**

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost but now am found was blind but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved,

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers toils and snares I have already come;

‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home

The Lord has promised good to me His word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures

*John Newton (1725 – 1807)*

#### **Act of Remembrance**

Remember what you will. Remember the sacrifice the blood the death. The loyalties forged the times shared the glory – remember what you will.

Remember what you will; the ideals, rights, justifications, the tyranny, the bravery, the hope, the trust betrayed, consciences crushed, innocence lost; - remember what you will.

Remember what you will, remember the youth, destroyed faces saved, the scars, the wounded minds and bodies, families destroyed or uncreated, the waste, the gains and all things avoided or lost; bloodbath, sacrifice or bloodletting – remember what you will.

Remember what you will. Remember what you will but **remember**.

James Murdoch Ewing Beyond our tears CTBI 2004 pg 36

### **Laying of wreath**

**David Taylor**

They shall not grow 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.

### **Last Post/ Silence**

**Ryan Borthwick**

#### **Reveille**

#### **Kohima Prayer**

When you go Home, tell them of us and say, “For your tomorrow, we gave our today.”

**Prayer** Ever-living God we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; those living with their physical mental and spiritual injuries, families torn apart; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen

### **Prayer for others**

**Elise Williams (Selkirk)**

Heavenly Father, Creator of the universe. We come to you today with our thanks and prayers. Thank you for the gift of life, for the joy, love and friendship. We remember at this special service all the Men and women who gave their lives for us in order that we would be free from the cruelty and evil of war. We remember in prayer, those who have lost their lives through terrorism or by accident resulting in taking all age groups from their families. Grant them the peace and comfort only you can give. Whatever our nationality or race, we are global citizens in Christ.

May we be committed to find non-violent ways of resolving conflict – personal, local, national and international and our efforts to forgive.

We pray for our nation and ask you to guide those in government to make the right decisions for the benefit of our country and our people.

We pray for our Queen and the Royal family and ask for your hand of protection upon them. We ask your blessing to be upon our armed forces and police who do their best to maintain safety in our communities sometimes facing difficult situations.

We hold in prayer our surgeons, doctors, nurses, carers, scientists, keyworkers and councillors who are working round the clock to help those who are stricken with this virus. We thank them for their knowledge both here and abroad given to them by you.

We hold in prayer our future generations that they may continue the work in preserving our world that you gave us from pollution and destruction.

Bless Margaret our minister our elders and to those who do so much in giving their support behind the scenes.

Let us pray for those who foster violence, those who do not forgive others. May the Lord change their hearts that they may seek peace and love their brothers and sisters. Heavenly Father lighten our personal distress and that of our society. Receive us into the fellowship of those who believe. Turn our hearts to truth everlasting and healing harmony. Strengthen our faith now and in the coming days. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord and Saviour Amen.

**HYMN 519                    Love divine all loves excelling**

Love divine all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling all thy faithful mercies crown  
Jesus thou art all compassion pure unbounded love thou art  
Visit us with thy salvation enter every trembling heart

Come almighty to deliver let us all thy life receive  
Suddenly return and never, never more thy temples leave  
Thee we would be always blessing serve thee as thy hosts above  
Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love

Finish then thy new creation pure and spotless let us be  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee  
Changed from glory into glory till in heaven we take our place  
Till we cast our crowns before thee lost in wonder love and praise

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

**BENEDICTION**

May the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in always. Go knowing the blessing of God the Father, Son and Spirit's eternal love in your life today and everyday Amen

**HYMN 703                    God save the Queen - 1 verse**

God save our gracious Queen, long live our noble Queen. God save the Queen.  
Send her victorious happy and glorious long to reign over us God save the Queen

Author unknown