

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD

A SERVICE FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Lest We Forget

They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more;

(Micah 4.3b)

GATHERING

(All gather together in silence)

I lift up my eyes to the hills
– from whence will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.

(Psalm 121.1-2)

We meet in the presence of God.

We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may together, live in freedom, justice and peace.

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

REMEMBERING

An older person says:

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

A younger person replies:

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

We will remember them

Hymn

**I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
The love that asks no question, the love that stands
the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the
price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.**

**And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them
that know;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her
King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds
increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her
paths are peace.**

The Last Post is sounded, during which the flags and standards are lowered and a two-minute silence begins.

Silence

The Reveille is sounded at the end of the two-minute silence and the flags and standards are raised.

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

READINGS

Anthem for a Doomed Youth

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?

- Only the monstrous anger of the guns.

Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle

Can patter out their hasty orisons.

No mockeries for them from prayers or bells,

Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,-

The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;

And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all?
Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes
Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.
The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;
Their flowers the tenderness of silent minds,
And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

Wilfred Owen (1893-1918)

BIBLE READING

Micah 4:1-4

4 In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, ²and many nations shall come and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; ⁴but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

PRAYERS

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that humanity may learn the ways of peace:

for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one known to God;

May they rest in peace

for those who love them in death as in life, and who suffer the distress of grief and the sorrow of loss;

May they find peace

for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering their families, friends and all who pray for their safe return;

May they know peace

for civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;

May they live in peace

for peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free;

May they keep the peace

for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious in the search for reconciliation.

May they work for peace

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know.

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.

As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

**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 and forgive us
our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for
ever and ever.**

Amen

ACT OF HOPE

*Representative and other members of the public come
forward to lay wreaths before the War Memorial.*

The Kohima Epitaph

When you go home tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrow we gave our today.

Hymn

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.**

**Under the shadow of thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God,
To endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Will bear us all away;
We fade and vanish, as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.**

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.**

ACT OF COMMITMENT

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

We will

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

We will

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

We will

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love:

May we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people,

And live lives of justice, courage and mercy;
through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer.

Amen

The National Anthem

**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!**

THE BLESSING

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth and all people, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all and remain with you always.

Amen

Based on a service published in 2005 by CTBI

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