

St John's Church, Ridgeway Remembrance Sunday



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

Kohima Epitaph

Welcome and Introduction

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

We have gathered today to remember all those from this community who were caught up in the courageous but tragic events of warfare. We remember all those who were killed in action, or by disease, the bereaved, the lost, the families which were shattered, the wounded, maimed and injured, those who held in silence unspeakable memories of war.

As we remember each of those who fought and those who remained anxiously at home in this community, let us pray that God will heal all memories, speak a word of peace, and bring us his healing.

Hymn

We stand for our opening hymn.

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation;
all ye who hear,
brothers and sisters, draw near,
praise Him in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously
reigneth,
shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
hast thou not seen?
all that is needful hath been
granted in what He ordaineth.**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work, and
defend thee!
surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who with His love doth befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises
before Him!
Let the amen
sound from His people again:
gladly for aye we adore Him.**

*Joachim Neander
tr. Catherine Winkworth*

Act of Penitence

Please sit or kneel as we pray.

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings
of the world;
its pride, its selfishness, its greed;
its evil divisions and hatreds.

Let us confess our share in what is wrong,
and our failure to seek and establish that peace
which God wills for his children.

**All: Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The minister assures us of God's forgiveness.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Listening to God's Word

A reading from the gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'

Matthew 5.1-12

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn

We stand together to sing.

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to His feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like thee His praise should sing?**

**Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise Him for His grace and favour
to our fathers, in distress;
praise Him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.**

**Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Glorious in His faithfulness.**

**Father-like He tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame He knows;
in His hands He gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.**

**Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Widely as His mercy flows.**

**Angels, help us to adore Him;
ye behold Him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before Him;
dwellers all in time and space.**

**Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise with us the God of grace.**

Henry Francis Lyte

Act of Remembrance

Please remain standing for the Act of Remembrance.

Let us remember before God,
and commend to his safe keeping,
those who have died for their country in war;
those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure;
and all who have lived and died
in the service of the peoples of the world.

A list of those to be remembered will be read.

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.

All: We will remember them.

We remain standing for Last Post, the Silence and the Reveille.

Prayers for the World

We sit or kneel to pray.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the leaders of the nations,
that you will guide them in the ways of freedom,
justice and truth.

All: Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who bear arms on behalf of the nation,
that they may have discipline and discernment,
courage and compassion.

All: Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray for our enemies, and those who wish us harm,
that you will turn the hearts of all to kindness
and friendship.

All: Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray for the wounded and the captive,
the grieving and the homeless,
that in all their trials they may know your love
and support.

All: Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Most holy God and Father,
hear our prayers for all who strive for peace
and all who fight for justice.
Help us, who today remember the cost of war,

to work for a better tomorrow;
and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror
and conflict,
bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence;
through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

As we ask that God's will may be done in this and every
place, so we pray together as Jesus Christ has taught us:

**All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn

We stand to sing. During this hymn our offering will be taken.

**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 Your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is Your arm alone,
and our defence is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting You are God,
to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in Your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies with the dawning day.**

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be our defence while life shall last,
and our eternal home.**

Isaac Watts

Act of Commitment

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

All: We will.

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

All: We will.

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

All: 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.

All: Amen.

National Anthem

**God save our gracious King,
long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us;
God save the King!**

**Thy choicest gifts in store
on him be pleased to pour,
long may he reign!
May he defend our laws,
and ever give us cause
to sing with heart and voice
God save the King!**

The Blessing

God grant to the living grace,
to the departed rest,
to the Church, the King,
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,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

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