



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 10th November 2024

Remembrance Sunday

*compiled by Michael Winter - Local Preacher
& Anglican Lay Minister*

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*

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary they shall walk and not faint. *Isaiah 40.31*

*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. **We will remember them.***

Prayer of Confession

God of peace,
Forgive us when we have participated
in that which turns people against each other;
for fuelling anger and harbouring vengeance,
for not heeding your call to love one another.
Inspire us never to give up on the hope
that your life offers us,
and the courage to see past war and desolation
and live for the day when it will be peace.

Hymn: STF 132

1] O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

2] Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

3] Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

4] A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5] Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

6] O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while **troubles last,**
and our eternal home.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Prayers (produced by Churches Together in Britain & Ireland)

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace: for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God.

May God give peace. **God give peace.**

For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss.

May God give peace. **God give peace.**

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

May God give peace. **God give 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 God give peace. **God give peace.**

For peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free.

May God give peace. **God give peace.**

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.

May God give peace. **God give 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

Reading: Matthew 5: 1-12

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."

Hymn: STF 480

1] The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me down to lie

In pastures green; He leadeth me

The quiet waters by.

2] My soul He doth restore again;

And me to walk doth make

Within the paths of righteousness,

Even for His own Name's sake.

3] Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod
And staff my comfort still.

4] My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

5] Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling place shall be.

Psalm 23
The Scottish Psalter 1929

Reflection

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.*

Thus runs another verse of Laurence Binyon's poem 'The Fallen' in which the middle stanza is that famous one we hear on Remembrance Sunday:

*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.*

Staunch to the end, faces to the foe? Everyone? Of course we know now that many died not facing the foe but from illness sweeping through the trenches, from drowning even. Binyon's poem is perhaps typical of a patriotic and idealising genre of war poem that is now out of fashion, eclipsed by the harsher realities presented more graphically by famous war poets like Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon. The truth is that particular poem by Binyon was not a war poem drawn from direct experience at all. It was actually written early in the war in 1914 on the cliffs above Polzeath in Cornwall.

So who was Binyon whose words from one verse of one of poem so move and stir year after year? He lived from 1869 to 1943. So this was no youthful soldier at the front, the *Straight of limb, true of eye*, he so glorified. Indeed when war broke out, he was respectable middle aged (45) curator at the British Museum. But he did go to France - despite his age - in 1916 and spent the last two years of the war helping the wounded on the front as a hospital volunteer. And the poems from this experience are rather different. He did not lose his patriotism but it became a more reflective love of his country and above all a more profound commentary on war and because of his particular work rather different to the poems of those in the trenches:

*Each body of straight youth,
Strong, shapely, and marred,
Shines as out of a cloud
Of storm and splintered shard,

Of chaos, torture, blood,
Fire, thunder, and stench:
And the savage shattering noise
Of churned and shaken trench

Echoes through myriad hearts
In the dumb lands behind;-
Silent wailing, and bitter
Tears of the world's mind!*

The Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our lord. Amen

Hymn: STF 696

1] 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.

2] Lead us, Father, into freedom,
From despair the world release;
That, redeemed from war and hatred,
Men may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
Fear will die and hope increase.

3] All that kills abundant living,
Let it from the earth be banned;
Pride of status, race or schooling,
Dogmas keeping man from man.
In our common quest for justice
May we hallow life's brief span.

4] You Creator-God have written
Your great Name on all mankind;
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 Kann (1929-2009)

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

Prayer of 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, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all and remain with you always. Amen