

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering
'Growing God's Kingdom'



Sunday worship and weekly news
8 November 2020

Remembrance



Welcome everyone

We welcome via our YouTube link
Rev'd Dr Sandra Millar



In 'this world', dare I say, this Remembrance Sunday is like nothing we have experienced in our lifetime. However, on this special day we are asked to take our eyes off 'this world' and turn our attention to memories of those who gave their lives for 'King (or Queen) and Country'. It may well be that as you read this today you can bring to mind a family member who fell in combat. A family member who gave 'their today' in order to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today.

I'm reminded of course that one man, Jesus, also gave 'His today' at Calvary so we can have, not only, 'our tomorrow' in the presence of His heavenly Father, but we can enjoy and experience His heavenly Father today, in 'this world'.

Pete Best

We remember them... and Jesus

Processional 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,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening 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.

Prayer for Today

God, our refuge, and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease
and poverty and pain shall end,
that earth may know the peace of heaven
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

I Thessalonians 4 The Coming of the Lord

Read by Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangels' call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds



together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so, we will be with the Lord for ever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for the truth that the same almighty power of God that raised Christ from the dead will raise up all that have fallen asleep through Jesus. Thank You for your gift of eternal life in Him, in Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Psalm 70 Read by Georgina Wood



¹ O God make speed to save me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
² Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confusion; **let them be turned back and disgraced who wish me evil.**
³ Let those who mock and deride me
turn back because of their shame.
⁴ But let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; **let those who love your salvation say always,**

'Great is the Lord!'

⁵ As for me, I am poor and needy; **come to me quickly, O God.**

⁶ You are my help and my deliverer; **O Lord, do not delay.**

Matthew 25 - Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

Read by Lorraine Best

¹ Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." ⁷ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." ⁹ But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." ¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." ¹² But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." ¹³ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Prayer

You let us choose, O God, between you and the false gods of this world. In the midst of the night of sin and death, wake us from our slumber and call us forth to greet Christ, so that with eyes and hearts fixed on him, we may follow to eternal light. Amen.

Reflection from Susan Scothern

There are certain times in the year when we particularly want to be able to come together in our worship, and Remembrance Sunday is one of them. So, it is particularly hard when we cannot join together in the response, "We will remember them."

But it doesn't mean we cannot stop at eleven am and silently remember those who made the greatest sacrifice, those who never returned from the battlefields of the Western front, or the Atlantic, the Far East, Afghanistan.

And while we remember those who never returned, we also recall those who did come back, but were forever affected by the wars: those who lost limbs, the blinded, those who were gassed. And also, those who suffered mentally due to what they saw and experienced.

And even today, there are ex-service personnel who continue to suffer both physically and mentally, and not only them, but their families also. And so, even though we will not be gathered round the war memorial to listen to the Last Post, we will continue to remember them.



And what of us? Do we feel a little like the bridesmaids in our Gospel reading, waiting for the bridegroom to come? No doubt the bridesmaids all set out with great joy and enthusiasm, which slowly disappeared until they fell asleep. And there was nothing wrong in resting.

But what happened next? The bridegroom was coming so the bridesmaids leapt up, smoothed down their dresses, and trimmed their lamps. Except some of them were not ready, because they had no extra oil.

So, as we spend more time once again at home, let's learn from the wise bridesmaids, allow ourselves to rest, but also perhaps use the time to make sure we have the oil for our lamps which will be needed for the future.

We declare together our commitment to faith:

**We believe: in God the Father,
who raised Jesus from the dead.
We affirm: Jesus is Lord of our lives.
We will follow: the Holy Spirit
who enables us to live
in His goodness and love,
now and in all eternity. Amen**

Intercessions from Sylvia Chamberlain

On this Remembrance Sunday, let us bring before the God of peace our prayers for the world, the church and all His people. Merciful God, we pray for peace in our

hearts and homes, in our nations and our world, the peace, which is your will, the peace which we so badly need.

Lord in your mercy...

We remember today O Lord all those who have died in any kind of war throughout your world, soldiers who perished in the horror of battle, innocent people buried beneath the rubble from bomb attacks, men women and children brutally attacked and murdered in their villages.



Today we remember especially those victims of the two world wars including those close to us, or to our parents and grandparents. We remember those who came home with terrible injuries, both physical and psychological and those whose loved ones never returned.

Lord in your mercy...

Lord God, we pray for the leaders of the nations at this time, asking you to pour out your spirit of reconciliation on them. Give them a longing to bring freedom from fear and freedom from want for all peoples. Give strength and courage to those who bear heavy responsibilities for the peace of the world. We pray also for the Christian Church, called to witness to your love in this generation. May Christians work with all men of goodwill to break down the barriers which divide people. May those who profess one faith respect those who sincerely hold another faith and build a community where there is harmony and understanding.

Lord in your mercy...

On this day of remembrance our hearts and prayers go out to all who mourn the loss of those we have loved. When we lose someone close, we feel that part of us dies as well but part of them lives on in us, give us strength and understanding to honour and cherish that gift. Help all those who are bereaved to find the same consolation that in knowledge of your love they may honour the past by looking to the future. Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench.

We now remember before God all those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all who are sick in body, mind, and spirit. Give them comfort in their troubles. We pray too for all who minister to those who are ill and give thanks for all the NHS staff who face another really trying time in the next month.

Lord in your mercy...

We entrust to you, eternal God, those times when we can see only shadows and lose sight of the hope to come; the times when suffering seems so senseless, life so fragile, war so unstoppable and death so permanent.

Bless us with the assurance that you are in all things, the tragic and the beautiful, the nightmare and the dream, the light, and the darkness.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the peace of the world, today, tomorrow, and forever.

Merciful Father... Amen

Offertory Hymn

All my hope on God is founded,

He doth still my trust renew,
Me through change and chance he guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown,
He alone
Calls my heart to be his own.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
Deep his wisdom, passing thought:
Splendour, light, and life attend Him,
Beauty springeth out of naught
Evermore
From His store
New-born worlds rise and adore

Daily doth the almighty Giver
Bounteous gifts on us bestow;
His desire our soul delighteth,
Pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
At his hand;
Joy doth wait on his command.

Still from man to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ, his Son.
Christ doth call
One and all:
Ye who follow shall not fall.



Preparing to receive Holy Communion

Rev Dr Sandra Millar offers communion on our behalf.

Final Hymn

I vow to thee my country

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.

Our Act of Remembrance

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.

*The "Last Post" is sounded
 We observe 2 minutes silence, after which "Reveille" is
 sounded*

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

This will be followed by

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 Uniformed organisations



In previous years we have appreciated the commitment and willingness of the Uniformed organisations to participate in our Remembrance Day service. To acknowledge their presence last year and their willingness to send representatives to this year's service we include this photo taken last year.

WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:

❖ Keep bringing items for the **Foodbank**; **new collection point is the Church Centre hallway.**

Toiletries now accepted at the foodbank.
 Thank you!

Know someone who:

- ❖ is stuck at home without support?
- ❖ can't make ends meet?
- ❖ Just wants to talk?

Then **Contact Gloucestershire Community Help Hub on 01452 583519**

Keep picking up the phone!

People are finding phone calls with friends invaluable to combat loneliness. Thank you everyone; please keep up the good work!



CONTACTING US:

Vicar: Vacancy (please pray for new appointment)

Reader: Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis

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The Administration office is open on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9.00am until midday until further notice. Please contact the Church Administrator by email or leave a message on the office telephone and our Administrator will get back to you.

We are part of the **Church in Tuffley**, working in partnership with English Martyrs (Roman Catholic), Grange (Baptist) and St Barnabas (Anglican).



THE CHURCH IN TUFFLEY

This week's News

In Memoriam:

Norman Oldcroft RIP

We pray for all who are ill or in need at this time mentioning by name:

Margaret, Angela, Susan, Mike and Laura, Lynne, Sarah, Baby Obi, Pat, Christine, June, Brenda, Darren and family, Daphne

Anniversaries of death:

Molly Hancock, Victor Major, Gwendolen Barnes, David Driver-Dickerson, Jean Smith, John Keeling, Kathleen Evans, Arthur Lane, Anthony Harrison, Thomas Bevan, Edward Collis, Peter O'Brien, Idris White, Tony Bond.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Rose Hood 9th, Barry McDowell 9th.

DIARY DATES – 8 - 15 November

Sunday 8 Remembrance

Sun 8th		St G's and St M's	Sadly because of restrictions both churches will not be open.
Wed 11	8.15am	Z	Morning Prayer
	9.00am	Z	Pioneers
	4.00pm	Z	Vacancy Steering Group
Thu 12	10.00am Until 1.00am	St M's	Open for Private Prayer
Fri 13			December / January Crossroads deadline
Sun 15		St G's and St M's	Sadly because of restrictions both churches will not be open.

St George's = St G's: St Margaret's = St M's
Z = Zoom

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and Bishop of London have called the Church to prayer for the nation throughout the month of November.

We are asked to pray each day at 6pm using the following daily themes.

Sunday:

Family friends and loved ones

We lift to God those we hold in our hearts – praying for their health, their well-being and their sense of hope.

We pray that even when loved ones cannot physically be together, they would not feel apart.

We ask God's help in our communicating, our connecting and our caring.

Monday:

Schools and colleges, children, and young people

We pray for all those involved in the shaping of young lives.

We give God thanks for the sacrifices and commitment of teachers and all those involved in serving children and young people in education.

We pray that all might be nurtured and cared for and that every needful resource will be made available - that all lives can flourish even in these difficult times and that no one would be overlooked.

Tuesday:

Elderly, isolated and vulnerable

We echo God's commitment to those most at risk of this virus by praying today for those who are particularly vulnerable and isolated. Praying for their deliverance, protection, and comfort.

Wednesday:

The workplace and economic wellbeing

In this time of great challenge, we pray for the economic wellbeing of the country.

We remember before God those who face great uncertainty in their work.

We lift before God those who have lost their jobs and face an uncertain and difficult future. We pray for a renewed commitment to our common life together.

Thursday:

The NHS and other key workers

Our God is the great healer – and the agent used more than any other is the NHS.

Today we voice our gratitude for those who serve this country in the NHS and pray that God would prosper the work of their hands that they would all be encouraged in their continued work of sacrifice and care among us.

Friday:

National and Local government

We pray for those who are in positions of authority with responsibility for decision making at national and local level at this difficult time.

We ask that God would give great wisdom, deep commitment to all and right judgement.

Saturday:

All who are grieving, and all suffering with physical and mental ill health

'Lord the one you love is ill...' John 11 v 3

We bring to God all those who suffer in body, mind, spirit or with grief.

We ask that in God's great loving kindness they might know God's sustaining presence amidst their pain.

We pray for those who are stretched beyond their own capacity to cope and remain hopeful - that in the roar of these waterfalls God would bring a sense of coherence comfort and strength.