



Remembrance Sunday

12th November 2023

*Greater love has no one than this:
to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15: 13*

We come together today to remember those who have lost their lives during times of conflict and in acts of terror, to pray for peace and to dedicate ourselves to the creation of a more humane and just society. The 4th of August 2014 marked the 100th anniversary of the day Britain entered one of the costliest conflicts in history – the First World War – with fighting continuing until the 11th of November 1918, Armistice Day.

At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the two Minute Silence is observed on Armistice Day. Today, on Remembrance Sunday, we remember those who died fighting for freedom during two world wars, as well as those who have died in subsequent conflicts and those who are on the battlefield today. We also remember civilians who suffer the consequences of war and terror.

We come here to honour those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, but not to glorify their loss. We come also to reflect on the true horror of war, so that we might not forget. We come in the name of God, who might seem absent during times of despair, but who is always there in the midst of the carnage and chaos. In the words of Wilfred Owen- First world war Soldier and Poet -"Christ is literally in no-man's-land, there men often hear his voice..."



WELCOME

Hymn - O God, our help

**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.**

OPENING REFLECTION

Remember Ypres, Gallipoli, the Somme, Mons and Verdun.
Remember the Western Desert, El Alamein, the Normandy beaches.
Remember Coventry, Dresden, Hiroshima and the Burma Road.
Remember Korea, the Falkland Islands, Northern Ireland, the
Balkans, East Timor, Afghanistan and the Gulf.

Remember the courage, the comradeship,
the ingenuity, the spirit of working together for a common cause,
the planning together for a better world that would come with peace.
Remember the call to arms, the patriotic songs, the partings which
were such sweet sorrow. The sound of the drum, the skirl of the pipe,
the prayer that God would be on our side.

Remember the carnage; the colossal horror of war.
Remember the widows of sixty years and more,
the old men and women who never knew their fathers.
Remember the love that was lost, the wisdom wasted,
the minds that are still pained by memories.
Remember the families bereft by recent wars and conflict.

Remember this day the children who will die while nation fights
nation.
Remember the One who asked us to remember them.
Father, remember us; and forgive us our sins against you and our
fellow man.

AN ACT OF PENITENCE

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 seeks for his children.

For the times we have hurt others with our words or deeds,
Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For the times we have been disrespectful of others,
Christ have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

For the times when we have not shown friendship, tolerance
and understanding

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all
our sin and confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us
in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn - God is our strength and refuge

**God is our strength and refuge,
Our present help in trouble;
and we therefore will not fear,
though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble,
though swirling floods are raging,
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!**

**There is a flowing river,
Within God's holy city;
God is in the midst of her -
she shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at his presence -
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!**

**Come, see the works of our maker,
learn of His deeds all powerful;
wars will cease across the world
when he shatters the spear!
Be still and know your creator,
uplift him in the nations -
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!**

Reading: Micah 4: 1-5

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,
and 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.
He 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;
but 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.

For all the peoples walk,
each in the name of its god,
but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God
for ever and ever.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn - Make me a channel of your peace

**Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

*O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

**Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.**

*O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

**Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

Reading - Matthew 5: 43 - 48

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.

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

ADDRESS

Hymn - Lord for the years

**Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.**

**Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.**

**Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.**

**Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.**

**Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.**

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

All stand

Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure 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 humanity.

We also remember those who died in battle at Kohima in the Burma Campaign and all who have died during times of conflict and acts of terror.

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

TWO MINUTES SILENCE

REVEILLE

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

THE LAYING OF THE WREATHS

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.**

Anthem – Loving Shepherd of thy Sheep - P. Ledger

Hymn - For the healing of the nations

**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.**

**Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.**

**All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.**

**You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.**

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict,
and ask that God may grant us peace:

For the service men and women who have died
in the violence of war,
each one remembered by and known to God
God in your mercy

Grant us peace

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

God in your mercy

Grant us 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;

God in your mercy

Grant us peace

For civilian women, children and men
whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,

God in your mercy

Grant us peace

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

God in your mercy

Grant us peace

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership:
political, military and religious; grant them wisdom

as they work for reconciliation and peace

God in your mercy

Grant us peace

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

As Jesus taught us, so we pray:

**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.

Hymn – Thine be the glory

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:

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

THE 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.**



CLOSING PRAYERS

From the rising of the sun until its setting

God of peace

God of justice

God of infinite mercy

Remember your people

From the bleakness of war to the lavish warmth of peace

God of peace

God of justice

God of infinite mercy

Remember your people

We turn to you God,

asking that you enfold our planet,

in your justice, peace and truth.

Enlighten the minds of those making decisions -

melt the hearts of those inflicting

cruelty upon your children

and strengthen the resolve of all

who pray for peace.

And the blessing of God Almighty,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all

and remain with you always.

Amen

Let us go in peace to love and serve God and each other.

Church Services

Friday Holy Communion Service at 12 noon.

10am Sunday Eucharist & 6pm Evening Service

(There is no 6pm Evening Service on the first Sunday of the month)

The church is also open every Friday, 12.30pm - 2.30pm

For further details please visit our website or Facebook

www.stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk

For more information, please contact

Rector

Revd. Canon Simon Stokes

01502 573046 or 07771520085

simon@stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk

Church Office

Kathryn Williams

01502 561973

office@stmargaretslowestoft.co.uk

