

## Service of the Word for Remembrance Sunday

### Introduction

Grace and peace to you from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

*Welcome*

### Opening Responses

Jesus, Prince of Peace,  
today we look back on a century scarred with war,  
and ask you to guide our remembrance.  
We bring you our remembrance of the two World Wars,  
confused and bewildering as it is.  
We bring you our childhood memories of heroic soldiers –  
brothers and uncles, fathers and grandfathers –  
and our memories of families grieving for loved ones.  
We bring you our gratitude for self-sacrifice  
and our sadness at loss,  
our despair that wars like that could ever happen,  
and our inability to understand it all.  
We bring you, too, all we have learned since  
about the heroism of people we had only thought of as enemies,  
and the destruction done by our own side.  
Jesus, we bring you our remembrances  
**Help us to understand the truth  
and shape the future.**

*Roddy Cowie. Wild Goose Publications (adapted)*

### Hymn 417            God our help in ages past

**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 life shall last,  
And our eternal home.**

*Tune: St Anne; Words: Isaac Watts*

### **The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation**

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,

**Father forgive**

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,

**Father forgive**

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,

**Father forgive**

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

**Father forgive**

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

**Father forgive**

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,

**Father forgive**

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,

**Father forgive**

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgives you.

### **Act of Remembrance**

Let us remember before God,

and commend to his sure keeping:

those who have died for their country in conflict;

those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure;

and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.

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**

*2 minutes silence.*

**The Reveille**  
*Mary's Music School*

*Dashiell Taneus-Miller, St*

### **Prayer of Commemoration**

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 and with our earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Reading**     Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 78: 1-7**

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings from of old,  
things that we have heard and known,  
that our ancestors have told us.  
We will not hide them from their children;  
we will tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,  
and the wonders that he has done.

**He established a decree in Jacob,  
and appointed a law in Israel,  
which he commanded our ancestors  
to teach to their children;  
that the next generation might know them,  
the children yet unborn,  
and rise up and tell them to their children,  
so that they should set their hope in God,  
and not forget the works of God,  
but keep his commandments.**

**Reading**     I Thessalonians 4: 13-18

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. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 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. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 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 forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn Weep for the Dead

Weep for the dead. Let tears and silence tell  
of blood and battle, horror and renown.  
The years diminish, but do not dispel  
the pain of lives destroyed, and life laid down.

Silent the dead. Remembering, we stand  
silent as they, for words cannot esteem  
causes of war, the love of native land,  
all that they were, and all they might have been.

Raising our flag, we stand with muffled drum,  
judged by the colours of God's love and loss,  
recalling, as we pray, "Your Kingdom come,"  
a purple robe, and blood upon a cross.

Summoned by love that leaves no room for pride,  
we pray that every continent and isle,  
wounded by war, war's hate may lay aside,  
and find a way to heal and reconcile.

Weep for the dead, from all the ills of earth.  
Stand by the cross that bids all hatred cease.  
March to the drums of dignity and worth.  
Salute the King of Love, the Prince of Peace.

*Tune: Eventide; Words: Brian Wren*

## Gospel Matthew 25: 1-13

*When it is announced:* **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 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.’ 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. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying,

'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

*At the end:* Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.  
**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

**Sermon**     The Provost

**Anthem.** *Byrd Justorum Animae*

*Translation:* The souls of the just are in the hands of God, and the torment of death shall not touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die; but they are in peace.

**Affirmation of faith**

Let us give voice to our convictions  
and substance to our hopes.

We live by faith;  
**in the love of God, embodied in Jesus the Christ.**

We live in hope;  
**which does not disappoint, but brings love to life.**

We live in the power of the Spirit;  
**transforming our lives and the whole of creation.**  
**Amen. So be it.**

*John Schofield WATCH*

**Intercessions**

**The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us,  
we are bold to say:

**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**

### **Closing Prayer**

Holy God, whose fire of love never goes out:  
Free us from the fear of scarcity  
That keeps us out of love's own feast;  
Renew our trust in your abundance  
Which knows no death and keeps no count;  
Through Jesus Christ the oil of gladness. Amen.

*Steven Shakespeare : Prayers for an Inclusive Church*

### **Hymn Thou Whose Almighty Word**

**Thou, whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and, where the Gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light!**

**Thou who didst come to bring  
on thy redeeming wing  
healing and sight,  
heal to the sick in mind,  
sight to the in-ly blind,  
now to all humankind,  
let there be light!**

**Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving holy Dove,  
speed forth thy flight!  
Move on the waters' face  
bearing the gifts of grace,  
and, in earth's darkest place,  
let there be light!**

**Holy and blessed Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might;  
boundless as ocean's tide,  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world far and wide,**

**let there be light!**

*Tune: Moscow; Words: John Marriott*

**Blessing & Dismissal**

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to all people, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all God's people life everlasting.  
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all and remain with you always.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Voluntary**