

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 10th November 2024

Remembrance Sunday Family Worship

Minister: Revd Neil Coulson

Organist : Mr Stephen Hogger

Hello, I hope you are well. Our worship service this morning includes our Act of Remembrance. If starting around 10.45, our service will help move us towards the two minutes silence at 11 am. If you are worshipping at home today, you may well wish to use the television or the radio to mark the silence along with many other people across the UK. This Sunday, the Lectionary brings before us 1 Kings 17:8-16 and Mark 12:38-44.

Let us worship God:

Call to worship

Gracious God,
we heard you even in the sea of disorder
and the darkness of the void,
crying, 'Light and life become!'
And all creation was begun.
We gather to praise you.

Redeeming God,
we heard you even in the sins of destruction
and the night-time of sadness,
crying, 'Enough! Here is my Son:
love and hope for the future!'
We gather to praise you.

Inspiring God,
we heard you even in the silence of sorrow
and the anguish of pain,
crying, 'If God be for us,
who can be against us!'
We gather to praise you.

R&S 705 Our God, our help in ages past

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

2 Under 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 Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

A Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving – The Price of Freedom

Sovereign God,
 We praise you today for the freedom we enjoy
 in this nation and as individuals –
 freedom of speech and expression,
 freedom from war and oppression –
 a freedom secured at such enormous human cost.
 For all we owe to so many,
receive our thanks.

We praise you for those who made such freedom possible,
 the countless thousands who sacrificed life and limb
 in two World Wars
 and in subsequent conflicts,
 leaving homes and loved ones, often to return no more.
 For all we owe to so many,
receive our thanks.

We praise you for all who have fought against tyranny,
 hatred and evil,
 prepared to sacrifice everything
 rather than allow such forces to hold sway;
 and we salute their courage shown in the face of danger,
 their dedication to duty,
 their determination to battle on against all odds.
 For all we owe to so many,
receive our thanks.

While we are deeply troubled by the present wars and conflicts within our world,
 we praise you for wherever there is peace that can be enjoyed today –
 a peace which we need to treasure constantly,
 nurture carefully
 and safeguard always,
 recognising the price at which it was won.
 For all we owe to so many,
receive our thanks.

We praise you for those today who fight
 for international freedom and justice,
 members of our own armed forces currently serving around the world,
 members of UN peacekeeping forces in places of continuing tension,
 striving to maintain democracy,
 to keep rival factions apart,
 to protect innocent civilians,
 and to pave the way for a lasting end to hostilities.
 For all we owe to so many,
receive our thanks.

Sovereign God,
 we praise you today for the freedom we enjoy,
 and we pray that the day will come
 when there will be no more war,
 when the nations of our world will live in harmony,
 and when you will rule over all.
 Until that time, help us to learn the lessons of the past,
 to remember its sacrifices,
 and to work as far as we are able for peace.
 For all we owe to so many,
receive our thanks.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession – Living as Peacemakers

Loving God,
 we are reminded today of how easy it is to speak of peace,
 and how difficult it is to pursue it;
 how straight forward it sounds to talk of breaking down barriers,
 yet how demanding it is to actually live as peacemakers.
 Yet we are reminded also that this is what you want us to do –
 to live in such a way that we heal wounds rather than create them,
 that we unite rather than divide, that we reconcile rather than separate.
 For our share in the world's continuing pain,
Lord, forgive us.

We confess the things within us which make for conflict,
 pride, greed, envy, intolerance, a nursing of petty grievances,
 our unwillingness to forgive,
 our preoccupation with self and our lack of time for others –
 so much that we are as guilty of as any other.
 For our share in the world's continuing pain,
Lord, forgive us.

Rescue us from all that keeps us apart,
 and put a new spirit within us –
 a spirit of love and openness,
 acceptance and understanding,
 healing and reconciliation.
 May the peace we pray for begin here and now in our hearts,
 and so may we be instruments of your peace,
 bringing healing to our broken world and harmony between nations.
 For our share in the world's continuing pain,
Lord, forgive us.

In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Remembering

Friends, let us remember in silence before God,
 all those who have died in war.

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 two minutes' silence

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

We pray:
 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**

The 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

Merciful God,
 we offer to you the fears within 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.**

R&S 620 For the healing of the nations

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 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.

3 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.

4 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.

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)
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Our children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing.

Old Testament Reading 1 Kings 17:8-16

The Widow of Zarephath

⁸Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ⁹‘Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.’ ¹⁰So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, ‘Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.’ ¹¹As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, ‘Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.’ ¹²But she said, ‘As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.’ ¹³Elijah said to her, ‘Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son.’ ¹⁴For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.’ ¹⁵She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

Gospel Reading Mark 12:38-44

Jesus Denounces the Scribes

³⁸As he taught, he said, ‘Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.’

The Widow’s Offering

⁴¹He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then he called his disciples and said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.’

R&S 586 All my hope on God is founded

1 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.

2 Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust;
what with care and toil is builded,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God’s power
hour by hour
is my temple and my tower.

3 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.

4 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.

5 Still from earth 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.

Robert Bridges (1844-1930) altd.

* based on Joachim Neander (1650-80)

A Talk will be offered reflecting on today's readings

A moment for personal reflection as Stephen plays the organ

R&S 200 The kingdom of God

1 The kingdom of God
is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores
what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory
in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter
the kingdom shall grow.

2 The kingdom of God
is mercy and grace,
the prisoners are freed,
the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed
God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened
in place of despair.

3 The kingdom of God
is challenge and choice,
believe the good news,
repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners
brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement
for gain or for loss.

4 God's kingdom is come,
the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun,
in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom
shall answer his call,
and all things cry 'Glory!'
to God all in all.

Bryn A. Rees (1911-83)*
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Our prayers of intercession

O Lord, the great giver, teach us how to give. We think of all that you have given us... the beauty of creation around us, focussing on one particularly beautiful sight we have seen this week...

We thank you for giving us our homes or other places of refuge. We thank you for our families, friends and all who love and care for us. We picture our special people in our minds now...

We thank you for our food, our clothing, the good times...

And, above it all, we thank you for giving yourself to us so that we can have friendship with you.

Lord, you have given all these gifts freely, out of your great love and creativity. Teach us how to love like you. Show us how to care like you. Make us good stewards of your creation and help us learn to give.

Lord, the great giver of all good things

Help us to give of ourselves.

Lord, we think of times this week when we have not given wholeheartedly of ourselves. There have been times when we've been selfish, disobedient, ignoring people's needs and choosing to look the other way.

Forgive us for our lack of love and unwillingness to give of ourselves. As we start a new week, give us clear vision of how we can serve the needs of everyone we meet. Where people are sad, may we bring comfort.

Where people need our friendship, may we give our time. When our families or workplaces need our energy, help us to keep on giving, filled with your Spirit. Lord, giving beyond obligation sounds so hard and exhausting at times: we need your strength and support. So, we ask for it now.

Lord, the great giver of all good things

Help us to give of ourselves.

Lord, there are so many areas of your world where there is nothing we can physically do to help... but we can pray. We lift the troubled areas to you: Ukraine, the Middle East, Spain, so many parts of Africa. Lord, pour out your love and healing over these places of conflict and fear. Help us to remember to pray...

perhaps as we walk, or travel. Lord, may your kingdom come. And, Lord, if we are able, help us to give aid where it is needed most to help ease the suffering. Lord have mercy.

And we pray for the people of the USA as their new President is announced. May the result bring stability not division, we pray. We pray for wise leadership that will impact the world for good.

Lord, the great giver of all good things

Help us to give of ourselves.

Lord, we bring our church to you now. Give us wisdom and vision so that we know where to place our prayers and our energies. Fire us up with your love to be a worshipping community that is known for its ability to care and live out the good news of your kingdom in practical ways in our local community. Help us to be prepared to go above and beyond to serve the needs of those around us. Inspire us to work together as the family of God.

We pray for the charities we (already) support... and for those within our local area: the foodbanks, the homeless shelters, the soup kitchens, the after-school clubs...

Lord, the great giver of all good things

Help us to give of ourselves.

Lord, we remember all those in our congregation who need a particular touch of your love right now. We pray for the sick, the sad, the anxious, the lonely, those waiting for hospital appointments or diagnoses. Our prayers have been asked for....

Come alongside them in their need. Show us where we can be the answer to our own prayers and give us the insight to know when to speak, when to act, when to just sit in companionable silence.

Lord, the great giver of all good things

Help us to give of ourselves.

Finally, Lord, we pray for ourselves. Sometimes we are so overwhelmed with busyness that we forget to pray. Or we forget to take care of ourselves or to find some space just to be... Lord, this week, as we think in the stillness now of all the things that need to be done, help us to find moments of calm and times to recharge our batteries. Show us ways in which we can give TO ourselves so that we become more fully the people you have created us to be. O Lord, who loves to give us good things, give us times of laughter and joy this week, times shared with friends, a meeting of minds, a joining of hands, a game well played or a meal enjoyed.

Lord, as we give of ourselves, replenish us with yourself. Go before us into every situation and help us to see you in the eyes of everyone we meet.

Lord, we give ourselves to you. Thank you for giving yourself to us. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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. 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.**

R&S 345 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore;
feed me now and evermore.

2 Open thou the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams, Pantycelyn (1717-91)

v. 1 tr. Peter Williams (1722-96) altd.

vv. 2-3 tr. William Williams (or John Williams, 1754-1828) altd.

A sending out prayer

In a world still torn by conflicts, send us out as makers of peace.

In a world of destruction, send us out as menders and builders.

In a world of hurt, send us out as healers.

Where worlds are ending, send us out with faith in new beginnings. **Amen.**

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 may the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Grace is shared with one another