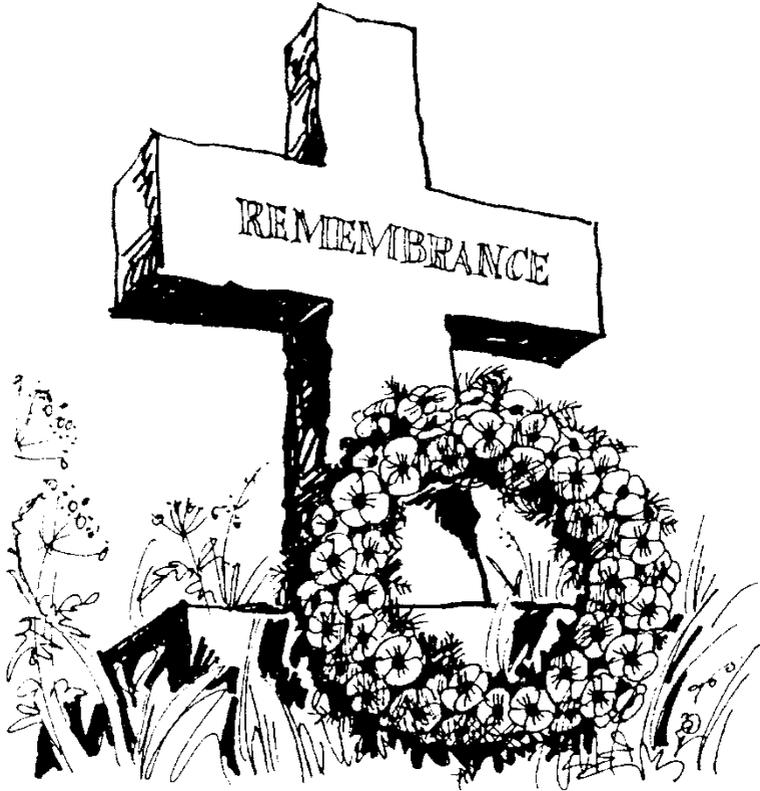


Service for Remembrance Sunday



St Laurence Church, Downton

8 November 2020

Preparation

Call to Worship

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

God is our refuge and strength;
a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Team Rector introduces the service

Hymn: *O God our help in ages past*
(The Choirs of Britain's Cathedrals)

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.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Prayer:

God of compassion,
we meet in your presence.

We commit ourselves to work
in penitence and faith
for reconciliation between the nations,
that all people may, together,
live in freedom, justice and peace.

We pray for all
who in bereavement, disability and pain
continue to suffer the consequences of
fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives,
in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given
and taken away. **Amen.**

Silence is kept

If there is to be peace in the world,
There must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations,
There must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities,
There must be peace between neighbours.

If there is to be peace between neighbours,
There must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home,
There must be peace in the heart.

Lao-Tzu, 6th century BC

Act of Remembrance

The Chairman of the British Legion says:

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.

All affirm:

We will remember them.

The Last Post and Reveille

Prayer:

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 Liturgy of the Word

Readings:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

After each reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Music: Be Thou my vision

(Bob Chilcott and The Oxford Choir)

Prayers

We are led in a time of prayer

This response is used:

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is said:

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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.**

Conclusion

The Collect

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing:

May the blessing of the God of peace and justice be with you;
May the blessing of the Son
who weeps the tears of the world's suffering be with you;
May the blessing of the Spirit
who inspires us to reconciliation and hope be with you;
In the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit
from now into eternity. **Amen.**

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love
kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? *Micah 6:8*

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.