

Sunday 14th November
Remembrance Sunday
Led by Sue Nelms, LLM

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM
OF CHURCHES



Opening words

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.

The Last Post is sounded.

The Two Minute Silence is observed.

Reveille is sounded.

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

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 nations,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn – Hope for the World's Despair

Hope for the world's despair:
we feel the nations' pain;
can anything repair
this broken earth again?
For this we pray:
in every place
a spark of grace
to light the way.

Wisdom for all who bear
the future in their hand,
entrusted with the care
of this and every land.
When comes the hour,
O Lord, we pray,
inspire the way
we spend our power.

Honour for all who've paid
war's painful, bitter price,
when duty called they made
the greatest sacrifice.
Their memory
will never cease
to cry for peace
and harmony.

Ease for the troubled mind
in endless conflict caught,
each soul that cannot find
the peace beyond all thought.
May they be blessed
with healing balm
for inner calm
and perfect rest.

Love for the human heart:
when hate grows from our fears
and inwardly we start
to turn our ploughs to spears.
Help us to sow
love's precious seed
in word and deed,
that peace may grow.

Turkish Memorial to ANZAC troops, situated on the Turkish coast at Gallipoli

Those heroes who shed their blood and lost their lives,
you are now lying in the soil of a friendly country.

Therefore rest in peace.

There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmetts to us
where they lie side by side in this country of ours.

You, the mothers who sent their sons from far away countries,
wipe away your tears,

your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace.

After having lost their lives on this land they become our sons as well.

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk

A Plea for Forgiveness

All have sinned and fall 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 those imprisoned, homeless or refugees,

Father Forgive.

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

Father Forgive.

The pride which leads 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. **Amen.** *Coventry Cathedral Litany of Reconciliation*

Reading read by John Barker

Matthew 5.1-10 - The Beatitudes

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Reflection: (by the Rev'd David Newton)

Where and how do we find happiness?

This is a question that has been at the centre of human thinking for as long as we have been thinking at all. Aristotle asked it. The great theologian-philosopher St Thomas of Aquinas asked it. We all ask it.

It is a simple truism that we all desire happiness, or (in the language of our reading, 'blessing'). We all want to be happy. And if we all want that, naturally we start asking how might I be happy?

This might not sound like a very Christian kind of question. Surely happiness is not meant to be the most important thing for Christians; surely they should be thinking more about other people being happy;

surely there are more important things than happiness or blessing, like generosity or simply love.

But here we have Jesus seeming to ask this fundamental question. Who is blessed? Who can be and how can we be happy?

Wanting to be happy is entirely natural, it is a very basic foundational desire, it is part of what it means to be human. And in fact, when people don't want that for themselves anymore then we know something has gone wrong somewhere.

Christianity was not invented to spoil our fun.

Instead, it presents one particular answer to that question of 'where and how do we find happiness'.

There are all sorts of ways we might try and answer that question, and throughout history cultures have tried to answer it in various ways.

Some cultures have said happiness is found in being a warrior, in conquering, in pillaging and taking over foreign lands.

Some cultures have said happiness is found in doing what our ancestors did, in maintaining the status quo, living in harmony with nature, and taking just what we need.

Some cultures have said only the happiness of *this particular group* matters. The happiness of Jews, or Travellers, or homosexuals, and all those taken to Concentration Camps were irrelevant to how the Nazis understood what it was to be blessed.

Our culture most frequently says happiness is found in consuming things, in possessing and owning, in controlling and dominating.

Our reading suggests something different. It suggests happiness is found in loving others. Blessed are those who are merciful, who seek justice or righteousness for the oppressed; blessed are those who are peacemakers.

Happy are those who seek to love others, happy are those who find life by giving it away.

Today, as we remember all those who have fought and died in war, all those who have been affected by war, this question about how we find blessing or happiness can never be far away.

For wars are fought for all sorts of reasons, and people fight for all sorts of reasons.

Sometimes, those reasons are perverse. And today is not a day to hide away from such realities. Wars have been and probably will be fought again because people think that happiness is found in power, or that happiness can only be found by denying happiness to everyone else.

But sometimes, the reasons are more in line with these words of Christ. Some wars might be fought to promote peace, or protect the oppressed. Or, even when they are not fought for such things, an individual soldier might act to save their friend; they might act out of love and not hate.

Today then we remember those who have fought and died in war, as well as the vision of blessing or happiness behind it. We remember the great cost of war; the atrocities committed by those who think their happiness alone matters, or that happiness is found in power. We remember too those who gave of themselves in service of a vision of peace, who fought to end oppression.

Looking forward, we remember so that we might re-commit ourselves to the truth that happiness is found in service, that it is found in love for others. Our happiness is bound up with the happiness of all.

Such a message is more crucial now than ever, as we emerge from the pandemic, and as COP26 comes to a close. Blessed are those who thirst for righteousness – who seek justice for the oppressed; blessed are the peacemakers – who try and bring people together despite differences; blessed are the merciful – who care for those who are vulnerable and in need.

This is where blessing is found, this is happiness, this is the vision of the good life. May we remember all those who have given themselves in service to such a vision and commit ourselves to the same. Amen.

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 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**

Prayers of Intercession led by Rick Nelms

Lord God we give thanks for the many places on Earth where there is peace. We thank you that we have the freedom to meet in your name without fear of persecution and pray that we never take that freedom for granted. We thank you that we are made in your image in all our diversity and that we love because you loved us first. We give thanks for the many beautiful places, ecosystems and species found on this gorgeous blue pearl set in a sea of stars. We thank you for the progress made towards environmental justice and control of climate change, for the loving service of so many in our communities, and for the efforts of scientists and medical professionals in progressing towards moderating the impact of the pandemic and developing treatments for so many previously untreatable conditions.

Lest we forget, lest we forget: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Lord God we pray for your Church across the world today. We pray for your will to be done on Earth through the combined efforts of Christians everywhere. Especially this Remembrance Sunday, we pray for those who work as chaplains in the military services and pray that you will be with Paul in his new ministry as an Army chaplain. We pray for the leaders of the Anglican communion, for our bishops, Stephen and Dagmar, and for the lay and ordained ministers across the Lordsbridge team. We pray for those churches who are taking the brunt of the interregnums within the Lordsbridge Team and pray for people to step forward to take up ministry roles where these are needed. We especially pray for the people you have chosen to come and join the Lordsbridge Team, that they will hear and be obedient to your call.

Lest we forget, lest we forget: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Lord God we pray for the leaders of the nations, for your light to shine into their lives; your light which cannot and will not be extinguished. We pray especially for leaders who think that violence is the best way to resolve conflict, and pray for them instead to beat their swords, spears, tanks, bombers and nuclear weapons into ploughshares and pruning hooks. We pray for those who would be terrorists to meet your angels face to face so that they understand the full impact of their sinfulness and turn away instead to a life of peace and love. We pray for the peacemakers to be blessed as they search without ceasing for reconciliation and peace.

Lest we forget, lest we forget: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for the people, corporations and nations that wage war on the environment; that they will find a different way to exist, one which is in harmony with creation. We pray against the burning forests, the rising greenhouse gas emissions and global temperatures, the melting ice, the collapse of ecosystems and populations of endangered species. We pray against the marginalisation of indigenous peoples and the often-secret attempts to wipe them out. We pray that your light will

shine into all these situations to turn disaster into triumph, ugliness into beauty and hatred into love.

Lest we forget, lest we forget: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Lord God we pray for our neighbours, our friends and our families, especially those who do not already know you. And we pray for those we find it difficult to love, those we find it difficult to forgive. Help us to turn away from bitterness and towards forgiveness and reconciliation. Where we ourselves are prodigal people, help us to remember that You Lord are waiting with open arms, with love, and that Jesus came not to condemn the world but to save it. We pray for everyone who has a role in enabling our communities to run smoothly, the emergency services, the health and care workers, the educators, the retail and service sector workers and those who do the jobs we would not like to do ourselves.

Lest we forget, lest we forget: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Lord God we pray for the many people who have returned injured from wars whether they be world wars or subsequent and ongoing conflicts. We pray for those with physical, mental and spiritual injuries and pray for all those who look after them. And we pray for people from all walks of life who struggle, whether their struggles be physical, mental or spiritual and for all those who care for them. We pray for all those trapped in poverty, for those held captive, for those without homes. We bring those known to us before you now in a time of silence.

(Silence)

Lest we forget, lest we forget: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Lord God we pray for all those who have given their lives in conflicts across the world, from the first and second world wars right up to the continuing conflicts today. And we pray for the families of those who have died in action and in peacetime incidents. We pray also for all those people who are dying and for all those who grieve. In your infinite love and mercy bring the whole Church, those living and those who have died, whether their faith is known to all or only to You, to a

joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of Your eternal kingdom. We bring those known to us before you now in a time of silence.

(Silence)

Merciful Father: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

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 forever. **Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Hymn - For the healing of the nations

I 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 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.

- 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.

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Blessing

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
teach us to live in the ways of peace and justice,
to wage peace rather than war;
so that we may come by the power of the Holy Spirit as one family
to the kingdom of the Father where you live for ever and ever.

Amen.

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.

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