

AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

INTRODUCTION

Minister: We are gathered here in the presence of God, to remember with sorrow those from this town whose lives were lost in the two world wars and in other conflicts, and to honour their sacrifice and their memory.

We meet also to remember all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror, and to commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, so that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.

HYMN

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.**

**Beneath 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 guide while troubles last,
And our eternal home!**

READING

Minister: Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him and he began to teach them.

He said:

“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 be shown 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 because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

ACT OF PENITENCE

Minister: 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 wills for his children.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

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

All: Amen

INTERCESSION

Minister: Let us pray for the peace of the world: for states people and rulers, that they may have wisdom to know and courage to do what is right.

For all who work to improve international relationships, that they may find the true way to reconcile people of different race, colour and creed.

And for men and women the world over, that they may have justice and freedom, and live in security and peace.

Here follows a short silence.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Most gracious God and Father, in whose will is our peace: turn our hearts and the hearts of all to yourself, that by the power of your Spirit the peace which is founded on the righteousness may be established throughout the whole world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Minister: Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of war: for the injured and the disabled, for the mentally distressed, and for those whose faith in God and humanity has been weakened or destroyed.

For the homeless and refugees, for those who are hungry, and for all who have lost their livelihood and security.

For those who mourn their dead, those who have lost husband or wife, children or parents, and especially for those who have no hope in Christ to sustain them in their grief.

Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Minister: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, infinite in wisdom, love, and power: have compassion on those for whom we pray; and help us to use all suffering in the cause of your kingdom; through him who gave himself for us in the cross, Jesus Christ your son, our Lord.

All: Amen.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Minister: Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping: those who have died for country in war; those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived and died in the service of humankind.

The Exhortation – Recited by a Veteran:

“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: We will remember them.

The Last Post is sounded

The One Minute Silence is observed

The Reveille is sounded

The Kohima Epitaph – Recited by a Veteran

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

Laying of the Wreaths - listing read out by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor

Minister: Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them and the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

HYMN

**Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**I need Thy presence every passing hour.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.**

**I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.**

**Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

Minister: Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women: that we may help, encourage, and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and humankind, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All:

**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.**

THE BLESSING

Minister: God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, King, the Commonwealth, and all of humankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always.

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!**

**Not in this land alone,
But be God's mercies known,
From shore to shore!
Lord make the nations see,
That men should brothers be,
And form one family,
The wide world o'er.**

CLOSING WORDS

The Mayor of the Town Council will close the service with a few words.