

**ST PETER & ST PAUL'S
CHURCH, AYLESFORD**



**Remembrance
Sunday**

8th November 2020, 10am

Welcome

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

Matthew 5.9

Opening Prayer

We come together today to remember.

**To remember with thanks those who
have given their lives in service of others.**

**To remember with sadness the suffering,
destruction and pain caused by human
conflict.**

**We come also to commit ourselves to
be peacemakers and peacekeepers
wherever we can.**

**In the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus
Christ, we offer our intent. Amen.**

Hymn

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.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

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.

Still from man 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.

Joachim Neander

Prayers of Penitence

Lord God our Father, maker of all:
we praise you for your wondrous work
of creation.
Forgive us when we use your gifts poorly.
Enable us to build a society where all may
thrive.

Silence

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
Prince of Peace:

we thank you for your life among us.
Forgive us when we fail to live together as
one family.

Help us to dwell together in love
and peace, seeking one another's welfare,
bearing one another's burdens,
and sharing one another's joys.

Silence

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, Lord of grace, fulfiller
of humanity:

forgive us when we fail to change our ways.

Give us strength to face the future,
and wisdom to learn from the past
as we remember those who have given
their lives in the service of justice and
peace.

Silence

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

**God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease
and poverty and pain shall end,
that earth may know the peace of heaven
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

1 Thessalonians 4.13-end

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly
friend,
through thorny ways, leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing
shake,
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the tempests still obey
his voice, who ruled them once on
Galilee.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be for ever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief and fear are
gone,
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears
are past
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Reading

Matthew 25.1-13

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Video

Hope for the world’s despair

Ally Barrett

Prayers

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace:

for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God;

May God give peace

God give peace

for those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;

May God give peace

God give peace

for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;

May God give peace

God give peace

for civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;

May God give peace

God give peace

for peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free;

May God give peace

God give peace

for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.

May God give peace

God give peace

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

Amen.

Gathering our prayers 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.

Hymn

When the guns of war fell silent,
weary soldiers cheered and sang.
In the streets of towns and cities
crowds rejoiced and church bells rang.
Row on row of limestone crosses
now recall the sacrifice.
We remember, we will treasure
peace, that comes at such a price.

On a dark Judaeen hillside
crosses silhouette the sky,
where the Son of God was taken,
crucified and left to die.
He was wounded for our healing,
gave his life that we might live,
deepest mercy, reconciling
peace, that nothing less could give.

When will all the guns be silent?
How we long for war to cease.
From the ruins of each conflict
rises up our prayer for peace.
May the selfless love of Jesus
give us hope at last to see
all the nations, celebrating
peace, when all the world is free.

Andrew Moll

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God,
You call us to let go of the things we cling to and step out in faith, trusting in your love and provision. Give us courage to step out boldly, to act generously, and without fear. Use our gifts to accomplish more than we could possibly imagine, so that, through us, your kingdom might come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. **Amen.**

Ending

Jesus taught us, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

May God grant us the vision, strength, and courage to proclaim God's message of peace, whether welcome or unwelcome, for the sake of all God's beloved children.

Amen.

*We continue the service
at the War Memorial*

At the War Memorial

Sentences

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

Psalms 46.1

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. *Psalms 121.1,2*

This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.

Lamentations 3.21-23

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40.31

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. *Matthew 5.9*

Prayer

We meet in the presence of God.

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.

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.

Exhortation

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.

Last Post

Silence is kept

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.**

Hymn

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

Laying of Wreaths

Kohima Epitaph

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

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.

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.

Blessing

God grant to the living grace, to the
departed rest, to the Church, the Queen,
the Commonwealth and all people,
unity, peace and concord, and to us and
all God's servants, life everlasting;

and the blessing of God almighty, the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

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