

ST PETER & ST PAUL'S  
CHURCH, AYLESFORD



## Remembrance Sunday

10th November 2024

### We Gather

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

*Matthew 5.9*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

### 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.

Human pride and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray his trust;  
what with care and toil he buildeth,  
tow'r and temple, fall to dust.  
But God's power, hour by hour,  
is my temple and my towe'r.

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.

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.

*Joachim Neander (1650-1680)*

Welcome

Our Intent

**We come together today to remember.**

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

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

**We will confess with shame humanity's  
failure to choose paths of peace.**

**We will commit ourselves to work for  
peace and justice.**

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 us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### The Collect

**Eternal God, in whose perfect realm no sword is drawn but the sword of justice, and no strength known but the strength of love: guide and inspire all who seek your kingdom, that peoples and nations may find their security in the love which casts out fear; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.**

## We Listen to God's Word

### First Reading

Jonah 3.1-5, 10

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: 'Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.'

Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, 'Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.' The Ninevites believed God.

A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn

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.

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## Gospel Reading

Mark 1.14-20

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

After John was put in prison, Jesus went  
into Galilee, proclaiming the good news  
of God. 'The time has come,' he said. 'The  
kingdom of God has come near. Repent  
and believe the good news!'

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee,  
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew  
casting a net into the lake, for they were  
fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said,  
'and I will send you out to fish for people.'  
At once they left their nets and followed him.

When he had gone a little farther, he saw  
James son of Zebedee and his brother  
John in a boat, preparing their nets.  
Without delay he called them, and they  
left their father Zebedee in the boat with  
the hired men and followed him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

## We Respond

### Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God  
who made the sun and the sky,  
the stars and the sea,  
who calls us to live responsibly.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ  
who became human,  
who healed the sick,  
who talked to children,  
who made friends with sinners.  
He burned brightly and offended many.**

**His journey was one of life and death  
and resurrection.**

**His light continues to shine in darkness.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit  
who inspires the scriptures  
and whose breath we breathe.**

**We believe that God calls us to be a  
community  
committed to one another,  
offering a welcome to everyone,  
old and young,  
rich and poor,  
strong and weak.**

**We believe that God calls us to be  
peacemakers,  
workers for justice.  
brothers and sisters,  
a light for the world. Amen.**

## Hymn

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,  
the darkness falls at thy behest;  
to thee our morning hymns ascended,  
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank thee that thy church unsleeping,  
while earth rolls onward into light,  
through all the world her watch is keeping,  
and rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island  
the dawn leads on another day,  
the voice of prayer is never silent,  
nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking  
our brethren 'neath the western sky,  
and hour by hour fresh lips are making  
thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,  
like earth's proud empires, pass away;  
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,  
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

*John Ellerton (1826-1893)*

## Prayers

### *Response*

May God give peace.

**God give peace.**

### *Ending with*

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.**

## Poem

Let us be different,  
Let us not be the same,  
You will be you, I will be me,  
Each of us has our own name.

You do things your way,  
In the light you have found,  
You must be true to what you know,  
And stand on your own ground.

Until we can learn  
To honour each other,  
To hear and know what makes us real  
We can't love one another.

But when that time comes,  
Though many the flowers,  
From different roots, we shall be shown  
That one earth is ours.

*Kathy Galloway*

## Hymn

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing,  
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;  
all our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
lone and dreary, faint and weary,  
through the desert Thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy:  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.

*James Edmeston (1791-1867)*

## 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.**

# At the War Memorial

## Gathering

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

*Psalm 46.1*

**Stir up your power O God,  
and come among us.  
Heal our wounds,  
calm our fears  
and give us peace.**

## Prayer

Here, in the presence of God;

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

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

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.

## 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.

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,  
will bear us all away;  
we fade and vanish, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning 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)*

### 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 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.

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

**Amen.**

Coffee and refreshments will be  
served in church. Everyone welcome.

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