

Bulletin for Sunday 14th November 2021

Good Morning, Friends.

It is good to share together in a time of silence for remembrance, but I'm not sure how best to incorporate a two minute silence into this written order of service; so may I suggest that you decide that for yourselves, depending on what will fit best with your own timing.

We pause as we prepare to worship..... and then praise God as we sing:

Hymn: Immortal, invisible (R&S 67)

Prayer: God of mercy, on this Remembrance Sunday
we thank you that we have been blessed with times of peace;
thank you for all who worked to make and keep that peace...
and thank you for the gift of memory,
enabling us to recall the past... and to pass it on...
We ask your blessing on everything that we do,
and everything that we give, in your service,
now and always. In Jesus' name. Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Reading: Deuteronomy 4: 9-14 and John 15: verses 9-17

Reflection: This passage from Deuteronomy is appropriate for Remembrance Sunday because it reminds us to teach the next generation about our (collective) past. To teach them to learn from the mistakes and horrors of what happened, and to understand what consequences can come from our actions, in the hope that generations to come won't make the same mistakes and go to war again. "Teach them to your children and to their children after them."
But it also matters how we teach our children of the past. I remember, when I was young, how sombre Remembrance Sunday was. We, as children, were surrounded by adults who had experienced at least one, and in many cases two World Wars. For them the memories were of deep personal trauma and loss, and their remembering had a quality of grief which impressed us without needing to be explained in detail. In fact they didn't talk about it much - they taught us quietly by the atmosphere that was created by their thoughts and memories. May they rest in peace. May we remember. And may the peace that passes understanding guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen

Hymn: Our God, our help in ages past (R&S 705)

Prayer: God of all times, all places and all people,
as we remember those who have died in war,
and the many still suffering today,
we pray for all who live in fear of violent conflict...
for those living with trauma and with life-long grief...
and for those seeking to bring medical help,
food aid, and an end to conflict and fighting...
We each bring our own memories - all different -
of friends, family members or comrades;
names on memorials or memories held in our hearts...
We pray for them... and for ourselves...
We pray for our communities, and for those we love...
Loving God, hear all our prayers,
spoken and unspoken, in Jesus' name. Amen

Hymn: Lord, for the years (R&S 603)

Blessing: May we remember... and live in peace...
and may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and with all those we love
now and always. Amen

There will be a ' Sunday at Six 'service on Zoom at 6pm - all welcome.

Please continue to remember that we all have a part to play in caring for each other and doing what we can to keep everyone safe from Covid, which includes letting us know if you have a positive Covid test after recently being in church. Sadly it's impossible to make our churches completely risk-free.

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