



Highcliffe and Bransgore **Methodist Churches**

Sunday 8th November 2020, 10:30am, Remembrance Sunday

Prepared by Rev'd Phillip Dixon with various attributed resources.

Our gathering for Remembrance Sunday this year is very different from how we would have preferred to meet. Our style of gathering may be different but it is absolutely no less significant and no less heartfelt. This year, during our restricted days of May and later August, we celebrated the 75th anniversaries of Victory in Europe and Victory in Japan and the community spirit demonstrated on these occasions was a great encouragement to everyone. For those brave men and women who left homes and families and made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of freedom, peace and justice we will be forever thankful and we will never forget.



Opening Prayer: We are here to worship Almighty God, whose purposes are good; whose power sustains the world He has made; who loves us, though we often fail in His service; who gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world; who by His Holy Spirit leads us in His way.

As we give thanks for His great works, we remember those who have lived and died in His service and in the service of others; we pray for all who suffer through war and are in need; we ask for His help and blessing that we may do His will, and that the whole world may acknowledge him as Lord and King. Rev'd Ben Sargent

Proclamation: And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Isaiah 2: 4 King James Version

Hymn: O God our help in ages past
Sing/read /pray/proclaim the words.

Our 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
Still may we dwell 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.

Our 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)

Prayer of Confession:

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world; its pride, its selfishness, its greed; its evil divisions and hatreds.

Pause and keep silence

Let us confess our share in what is wrong, and our failure to seek and establish that peace which God desires for his children.

Pause and keep silence

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.

Pause and keep silence

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. **Amen.**

Rev'd Ben Sargent

Absolution:

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 life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Church of England

We pray together our Lord's Prayer:

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.**

Preparation for the reading and preaching of scripture:

Heavenly Father, Who through the power of the Holy Spirit caused these words to be written for our learning, we pray that we would diligently study Your Word, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest all that You have graciously provided for us, so that we may come to a knowledge of salvation and Your will for our lives.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-16

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.

‘You are the salt of the earth. But if the
salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made
salty again? It is no longer good for
anything, except to be thrown out and
trampled underfoot.

‘You are the light of the world. A town
built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither
do people light a lamp and put it under a
bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and
it gives light to everyone in the house. In
the same way, let your light shine before
others, that they may see your good
deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
New International Version (UK)

**A time to pause, read again, pray, and
reflect.**

Preaching notes:

The Sermon on the Mount, so called
because Jesus “went up on a mountain
side”, is considered by many as the finest
literature known to man, encapsulating
the very essence of what it is to be a
Christian (a follower of Jesus). It is also
described as:
“The best known,
The least understood,
The most poorly observed”.

There are 9 characteristics that Jesus
describes as bringing a divine blessing (as
opposed to being made “happy” as some
translations indicate) and each has an
accompanying outcome, for example: the
meek will inherit the earth, the merciful
will be shown mercy. As with the Fruits of
the Spirit (of which, without coincidence,
there are also 9) from Galatians 6, these
characteristics are not in any way
separate from one another, they
complement one another. We are not
meant to “tick them off”, “some you may
have and others you don’t”, Jesus
indicates here and elsewhere that we
should desire these characteristics and
that we should encourage one other in
living them out and give glory to our
Father in heaven whilst doing so.

When Jesus speaks of peacemakers, is he
speaking of those who avoid conflict at all
costs? The appeasers, the deniers of
tension, a peace at all costs? I don’t
believe so. When you consider history
perhaps it is those who, in the face of
cruelty and tyranny, bravely took up arms
when all else failed.

This “Peace” is not an absence of war but
is to be found in our relationship with
God. Jesus is the “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah
9:6) and His followers must pursue peace,
a peace of the heart that is reconciliation
with God. “Now all things are of God, who
has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus
Christ, and has given us the ministry of
reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18). The
ministry of reconciliation is another term
for a peacemaker; therefore it is only
through our relationship with Jesus that
we can truly undertake this “peace of
hearts” and reconciliation to God, a
mission that He calls us to.

On this day of Remembrance we consider the many conflicts that have involved the sacrifice of many brave and also innocent lives. We think of the many conflicts currently in our world and we pray for the perfect peace of Jesus to melt hard hearts and bring a reconciliation of those currently far from the One True God.

Amen

Song: When peace like a river

Sing/read /pray/proclaim the words.

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

*It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control:
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed his own blood for my soul.

*It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

*It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound and the Lord

shall descend;
even so, it is well with my soul.

*It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

Horatio Gates Spafford (1873)

The Act of Remembrance:

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

A time of silence as we imagine the laying of wreaths at a memorial to the dead.

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 is sounded and we keep a time of silence.

"When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us
And Say,
For Their Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today"

Act of Commitment:

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 all mankind,
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. **Amen.**

The 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.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.

A Poem written by an Army Chaplain serving in Afghanistan

Please don't pray for me
pray for the people who want to kill me,
for the people who have put a bounty on
my head:
the people who want to see me dead.

Please don't pray for me
pray for the people who see me as the
invader,
for the people who want to get revenge,

for the people who want to avenge the
honour of their tribe.

Please don't pray for me
pray for the people who are driven by
fear,
fuelled by poverty,
energised by anger and grief
and motivated by rejection.

Please don't pray for me,
pray for people who have brought me
here.
for the people who make the decisions
for the people who want money, power,
influence and control.

Please don't pray for me
pray for the people who live here,
for the people, whose lives have been
disrupted by violence,
for the voiceless and oppressed,
for the people caught in the crossfire.

Please don't pray for me. Padre Andrew Rawdings

Prayers of Intercession:

Almighty God of love and compassion as
we remember and give thanks for all
those who have given of themselves in
our armed forces, we pray for those who
continue to suffer from their injuries and
disabilities and for those whose faith in
you and mankind has been weakened or
destroyed. We pray for loved ones whose
lives have been irrevocably affected as a
result and those who continue to mourn
their loss.

We ask your blessing and pray for all who
continue to suffer in body mind and spirit
as a result of their experiences of war,
that they may be aware of your presence
in Christ .

We pray for the men and woman on active service in various places across the globe, places such as Afghanistan, Nigeria and South Sudan. We pray your blessing on the work of military chaplains and the medical services who seek to meet their needs.

As we pray for the peoples of the world and all their many needs we remember the peoples of Turkey and the Greek Islands as they seek to recover from the effects of the earthquake. As we begin a fresh lockdown due to the virus we ask for your uplifting and support of all engaged in our health service, for those suffering from the virus and all who are anxious for loved ones or mourn the loss of one dear to them.

We keep a time of silence as we bring to God our own prayers for others and for ourselves

We ask all our prayers in and through the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Rev'd Roger Gisborne

Song: In Christ alone

Sing/read /pray/proclaim the words.

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
this Cornerstone, this solid ground
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!

My Comforter, my All in All
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save

till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on Him was laid
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious Day
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Keith Getty (1974) and Stuart Townend (1963)

Blessing: Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Poppy Appeal: With thousands of poppy collectors unable to sell poppies locally and many fundraising events cancelled, we are relying on the British public to give as generously as possible this year. Donate by post to Freepost Plus RTZT-ATBH-RGBZ, The Royal British Legion, Bumpers Way, Bumpers Farm, Chippenham, SN14 6NG. Online at www.britishlegion.org.uk

phillip.dixon@methodist.org.uk YouTube links are external resources and are provided to help you engage with the songs. Singing the Faith and Hymns and Psalms resources are provided under license: CCLI 178182