

A field of red poppies in a golden sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that fills the sky and reflects off the petals of the flowers. The poppies are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

# *Armistice Day*

## **Wednesday 11 November 2020**

- All the Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The hymns are accompanied by YouTube hyperlinks. To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page, <http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

## **Introduction**

I heard a great voice from heaven telling me, 'Write this: blessed are the dead who die for the Lord. Yes, for ever henceforth, the Spirit says, "They are to rest from their labours; but the deeds they did in life go before them".'

The people of Waterhead built this Memorial as an act of faith in the supremacy of Christ and a determination to live in peace. Although the First World War was fought as ‘the War to end all wars’, today there are wars in nearly twenty countries, and in the hearts in men and women every in land.

Today we therefore do many things: we place ourselves in the presence of God; and we commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations of the world and between its peoples — both together and individually. We pray that we may live together in freedom, justice and peace; we pray for all who in bereavement and disability continue to suffer the effects of war and terror.

**HYMN 1 O God our help**

(please click on this [link](#))

**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.**

**God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be thou our guard while life shall last,  
And our eternal home.**

## Reading from the Bible

The Gospel according to St John, chapter 15, verses 10 to 17

Jesus said to his disciples, 'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you, abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love; just as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken to you, that my joy be in you, and that your joy be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no one than this, that they lay down their life for their friends.

'You are my friends, if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants; for the servant does not know what the Master is doing; but I have called you friends; for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

'You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. This I command you, that you love one another.'

## Act of Remembrance

The people of Waterhead dedicated this war memorial to the glory of God and in memory of their friends who laid down their lives for their country in the Great War. It was built as a lasting tribute to their fellow citizens and as an act of gratitude. Each and every year since this fine memorial was built, the people of Waterhead have formally gathered here, at the Memorial, to remember. This year, we gather in a different way—virtually, in our mind's eye.

Let us pray: we re-dedicate this site to the continuing glory of God, the God who commands us to live our lives working for peace. We ask God's blessing upon this memorial in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

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 bugler will sound 'The last Post'.

(please click on this [link](#))

**A two-minute silence**

The bugler will sound 'Reveille'.

(please click on this [link](#))



## The National Anthem

(please click on this [link](#))

**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!**

## Prayers for those who suffer

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 people in the world, and establish a just and lasting harmony among the nations. We pray these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

We 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 man 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, friends and partners,  
and especially for those who have no hope in Christ  
to sustain them in their grief ...

**Short silence.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
infinite in wisdom, in love, and in power:  
have compassion on those for whom we pray today;  
inspire us to alleviate all suffering;  
and empower us as we strive to established here on earth  
your kingdom of peace and justice  
in which dust and ashes have no dominion.

**All Amen.**



## **Act of commitment**

In response to the suffering caused by war, past and present, we now pledge ourselves anew to peace. We pledge ourselves to the service of God and to helping all members of the human race, of whatever age or gender, race or background, colour or creed, that we may help, encourage, and comfort others, that we may support those who work for the relief of the needy, and for the peace and welfare of all the nations.

**All Lord God our Father  
we pledge ourselves  
to serve you and all 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.  
Amen.**

## **The 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.**

## Hymn two

### HYMN 2 [The day thou gavest](#)

(please click on this [link](#))

**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 forever,  
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.**

## Blessing

God, grant to the living grace,  
to the departed rest,  
to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, United Nations,  
and all people, peace and concord, and to us and to all  
his servants life everlasting,  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, and the Son and Holy Spirit  
be with you all evermore.

**All    Amen**