

Welcome to a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving.



Being Peacemakers 9th November 2025, 10am

The service will be led by The Rev'd Canon Felicity Scroggie,
The Rev'd Paul Charles, and The Ven David Meara.
Our music will be led by Kidlington Concert Brass.

Processional Hymn: Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

J G Whittier (1807-92)

Welcome and Introduction

Today is important. We remember the terrible loss of life in all conflicts past and present. We acknowledge the pain and awful loss of war. We stand, young and old together, united in silent respect and gratitude for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in serving their country. And we commit ourselves to work together for peace and strive for a better world.

Prayers of Penitence

Standing before God,
as citizens of his world that we have broken
let us confess to God our failure to learn from the past,
our failure of memory,
our share in what is wrong,
and our failure to seek and establish that peace
which God wills for his children.

We hold silence

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

"Peace, however, is not merely a gift to be received: it is also a task to be undertaken. In order to be true peacemakers, we must educate ourselves in compassion, solidarity, working together, fraternity, in being active within the community and concerned to raise awareness about national and international issues and the importance of seeking adequate mechanisms for the redistribution of wealth, the promotion of growth, cooperation for development and conflict resolution. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God', as Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount" Pope Benedict XVI

"As I have said, the first thing is to be honest with yourself. You can never have an impact on society if you have not changed yourself... Great peacemakers are all people of integrity, of honesty, but humility." Nelson Mandela

"People notice peacemakers because they dress funny. We know how the people who make war dress - in uniforms and medals, or in computers and clipboards, or in absoluteness, severity, greed, and cynicism. But the peacemaker is dressed in righteousness, justice, and faithfulness - dressed for the work that is to be done."

Walter Brueggemann

Hymn

Lord, we come to ask your healing,
teach us of love;
all unspoken shame revealing,
teach us of love.
Take our selfish thoughts and actions,
petty feuds, divisive factions,
hear us now to you appealing,
teach us of love.

Soothe away our pain and sorrow,
hold us in love;
Grace we cannot buy or borrow,
hold us in love.
Though we see but dark and danger,
though we spurn both friend and stranger,
Though we often dread tomorrow,
hold us in love.

Help us live for one another,
bind us in love;
Stranger, neighbour, father, mother –
bind us in love.
All are equal at your table,
through your spirit make us able
to embrace as sister, brother,
Bind us in love

David J Evans

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5v1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

"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 receive 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 for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Talk: Being Peacemakers with 17 Camels!

Hymn: Make me a channel of your peace

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master grant...

Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

The Affirmation of Faith

**We believe God made this world,
God loves this world,
God lives in this world.**

**We believe God holds it and cradles it in his loving hands:
holding its pain,
caring for every memory of every person in conflict.**

**We believe God loves each human being,
on every side of every struggle,
who has given of themselves even to death,
for their friends and family and country.**

**We believe violence breaks God's heart:
bullets tear through God's realm;
and war opposes God's love.**

**But we believe love lives longer than hatred;
hope burns away at despair;
God calls to us from the violence,
and we can work in love for a better world.
So be it.**

The Prayers

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.**

Act of Commitment:

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.**

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.

Please stand

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.**

**Thy choicest gifts in store
on him be pleased to pour,
long may he reign.
May he defend our laws, and ever give us cause to sing with
heart and voice,
God save the King.**

The Blessing

God grant to the living grace,
to the departed rest,
to the Church, the King,
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**

Recessional Hymn: Peace is flowing like a river

During this hymn the standards are collected. We follow the standards outside for the act of remembrance.

Peace is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.

Joy is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.

Faith is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.

Hope is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.

Love is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me;
Flowing out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.

Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Allelu, alleluia.

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As we leave the church your generosity is appreciated in a retiring collection for the Poppy appeal and the work of this church in our local community . THANK YOU.

Kidlington Concert Brass and the Royal British Legion invite you to a Concert of Remembrance at 3pm this afternoon in Exeter Hall. Entry is by donation on the door, and all proceeds go to the Poppy Appeal.

You are all invited to go to Exeter Hall after the parade for refreshments.

AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

Hymn: *This hymn is the winner of Jubilate's Hymns of Peace competition 2018, to mark the centenary of Armistice Day and the end of the First World War.*

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.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE



Minister: We remember by name all those
from Kidlington and Hampton Poyle
who lost their lives in war.

the list of those to be remembered by name is read

The 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.

All: We will remember them.

Silence: followed by the Last Post and Reveille

The Wreaths are placed

The Kohima Epitaph:

'When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say,
For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today.'

Minister: 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 reprise

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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