Welcome to a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving.



Walking in Their Footsteps

8th November 2026, 10am

The service will be led by The Rev'd Canon Felicity Scroggie
The Rev'd Oliver Harrison, 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.
The Beavers have made a display in the porch with poppies and boots. We expand on this theme of ‘Boots’ in our act of worship and as we march through the town afterwards.

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.

Poem: 'Boots' by Rudyard Kipling

We're foot--slog--slog--slog--sloggin' over Africa --
Foot--foot--foot--foot--sloggin' over Africa --
(Boots--boots--boots--boots--movin' up and down again!)
There's no discharge in the war!

Seven--six--eleven--five--nine-an'-twenty mile to-day --
Four--eleven--seventeen--thirty-two the day before --
(Boots--boots--boots--boots--movin' up and down again!)
There's no discharge in the war!

Don't--don't--don't--don't--look at what's in front of you.
(Boots--boots--boots--boots--movin' up an' down again);
Men--men--men--men--men go mad with watchin' em,
An' there's no discharge in the war!

Try--try--try--try--to think o' something different --
Oh--my--God--keep--me from goin' lunatic!
(Boots--boots--boots--boots--movin' up an' down again!)
There's no discharge in the war!

Count--count--count--count--the bullets in the bandoliers.
If--your--eyes--drop--they will get atop o' you!
(Boots--boots--boots--boots--movin' up and down again) --
There's no discharge in the war!

We--can--stick--out--'unger, thirst, an' weariness,
But--not--not--not--not the chronic sight of 'em --
Boots--boots--boots--boots--movin' up an' down again,
An' there's no discharge in the war!

'Taint--so--bad--by--day because o' company,
But night--brings--long--strings--o' forty thousand million
Boots--boots--boots--boots--movin' up an' down again.
There's no discharge in the war!

I--'ave--marched--six--weeks in 'Ell an' certify
It--is--not--fire--devils, dark, or anything,
But boots--boots--boots--boots--movin' up an' down again,
An' there's no discharge in the war!



Returning to the Trenches, 1915

By CRW Nevinson (Official WW1 War Artist)

Reading: Micah 4. 2-5

Many nations shall come and say:
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;
but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

For all the peoples walk,
each in the name of its god,
but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God
for ever and ever.

Talk: How Shall We Walk?

Poem: 'The Road Not Taken' by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Hymn:

One more step along the world I go
One more step along the world I go
From the old things to the new
Keep me traveling along with you

And it's from the old I travel to the new
Keep me traveling along with you

As I travel through the bad and good
Keep me traveling the way I should
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know

And it's from the old I travel to the new
Keep me traveling along with you

Give me courage when the world is rough
Keep me loving though the world is tough
Leap and sing in all I do
Keep me traveling along with you

And it's from the old I travel to the new
Keep me traveling along with you

You are older than the world can be
You are younger than the life in me
Ever old and ever new
Keep me traveling along with you

And it's from the old I travel to the new
Keep me traveling along with you

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 and 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.**

National Anthem: *Please stand*

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.

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:

During this hymn the standards are collected. We follow the standards outside for the Act of Remembrance.

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me,
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou Guardian of my soul.



O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory,
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy foot-marks,
And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
Is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me,
My Saviour and my Friend.



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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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