

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCEⁱ

8.00 am, 11th November 2018

The Gathering of the People of God

All gather in silence

Call to worship

The presiding minister reads one or more of the following sentences:

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary
they shall walk and not faint.
Isaiah 40.31

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6.8

The presiding minister continues:

We meet in the presence of God,
Who calls us to share in Christ's ministry of reconciliation.
In penitence and faith we commit ourselves to pray
for God's kingdom to come and work together with all people of
good will toward that justice and peace between nations and peoples
which is the hope of our calling.

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain
continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives,
in world wars and conflicts past and present,
have been given and taken away.

Hymn: Eternal Father Strong to Save TIS 138 (vv. 1&4)

Prayer of Confession

O Christ, in pain and agony on the cross
you bore the brunt of the world's violence.
You wore our insults scorched upon your back
and in your haunting cry of desolation
you utter our grief, our anguish, our loss.
Hear the cry of your people

Response

O God still the chatter, the twisted speech
Let your mercy and peace lead us in hope

We hold before you:
all the violence done in your name;
Those maimed by war or scared by hatred
Those traumatised by nightmares
which years of peace cannot erase.
Those crippled in spirit as well as in body
those who cannot or will not forgive.

response

O God still the chatter, the twisted speech
Let your mercy and peace lead us in hope

We hold before you the tyrants of our age
who wreak havoc with the minds and bodies of the young
and force them to commit horrendous crimes.
We hold before you a world broken by despair
where false prophets voice not words of peace

but chant a mantra of revenge

response

O God still the chatter, the twisted speech
Let your mercy and peace lead us in hope

We hold before you our own complicity with the evils of our age
 and pray for those who have not forgiven us

Response

O God still the chatter, the twisted speech
Let your mercy and peace lead us in hope

Hear what comfortable words our saviour Christ says
 To all who truly turn to God:
 Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy-laden,
 And I will give you rest.
 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.
 For I am gentle and lowly in heart,
 And you will find rest for your souls.
 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

**We wholeheartedly repent
 Of the evil we have done,
 And the evil done on our behalf;
 And we look for grace to offer forgiveness,
 And to know ourselves forgiven.**

Declaration of forgiveness

God was in Christ reconciling the world
 By his wounds we have been healed.
 Hear and live Christ's word of grace.
 Your sins are forgiven
Thanks be to God!

The Service of the Word

The reader says:

Hear these words from the New Testament

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
 I do not give to you as the world gives.
 Do not let your hearts be troubled,
 and do not let them be afraid.
 John 14:27

The reader says:

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn: Our God, our help in ages past TIS 47 (vv. 1,2,5,6)

The preaching of the Word

An act of remembrance and prayer

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict,
 and ask that God may give us peace:

for the servicemen and women who have died in the violence of
 war, each one remembered by and known to God;

May God give peace

God give peace

for those who love them in death as in life,
 offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;

May God give peace

God give peace

for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day,
remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;

May God give peace

God give peace

for civilian women, children and men
whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,
calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;

May God give peace

God give peace

for peace-makers and peace-keepers, who
seek to keep this world secure and free;

May God give peace

God give peace

for all Defence Force chaplains offering support,
encouragement, acceptance, compassion and understanding
wherever and whenever it is needed;

May God give peace

God give peace

for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political,
military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and
resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.

May God give peace

God give peace

O God of truth and justice,
we hold before you those whose memory we cherish,
and those whose names we will never know.

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world,
 and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.
 As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future;
 for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All join together in the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
 now and forever. Amen.**

Ode

An older person says:

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
 age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

A younger person may reply:

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
 we will remember them.

All affirm:

We will remember them.

Silence

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: Abide with me TIS 586

An act of commitment is made:

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

Hymn: God gives us a future TIS 687

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Go forth into the world in peace;
Be of good courage;
Hold fast that which is good;
Render to no one evil for evil;
Strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak;
Help the afflicted;
Give honour to all; love and serve the Lord,
Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen (TIS 783)

¹ The *Remembrance Day Lament* (a full service) is courtesy of the Uniting Church in Australia. It is a public domain service that can be used by anyone as long as the Uniting Church is acknowledged.