

Remembrance Sunday 8 November 2020

Introduction

A short liturgy of lament

A candle is lit.

Gracious God:

**you are the love that created the world;
you are the light which shines in the dark;
you are the one who is here with me now.**

A brief silence is kept.

Holy God:

**there are times when we cannot feel your love;
times when we struggle to see your light,
times when you seem absent and we feel empty.**

The candle is extinguished: we watch the smoke dissipate.

Loving God:

**where the pain is raw, send relief;
when fear paralyses, pour out peace;
where anger festers, have mercy;
when doubts overwhelm, hold us fast.
Amen.**

The Gathering

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

We meet in the presence of God.
We commit ourselves to work
in penitence and faith
for reconciliation between the nations,
that all people may, together,
live in freedom, justice and peace.
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.

Remembering

A first person says

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

A second person replies

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

We will remember them.

Silence is kept.

The Kohima Epitaph is said

When you go home
tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrow
we gave our today.

Music

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

In a world disordered by sin and death
we bow our heads and humble our hearts before you.

When our ears have been deaf to the cries of the poor and suffering;
Lord, have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

When our eyes have been blind to injustice in the world;
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

When our hands have torn down rather than healed;
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ
has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed:
forgive you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Listening for the Word from God

First Reading (1 Thessalonians 4.13-18)

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Praying Together

The response is:

may God give peace.

God give peace.

Spiritual Communion

What good things have come from God in these days?

Where have I fallen short?

Help me receive Christ's Easter gift of peace this day and in the days to come.

Music

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

John 6.35

**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.**

Give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now.

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.**
after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Lord, in these days of mercy,
make us quiet and prayerful;
in these days of challenge,
make us stronger in you;
in these days of emptiness,
take possession of us;
in these days of waiting,
open our hearts to the mystery of your cross.
Amen.
Angela Ashwin

Responding in Hope and Commitment

The Act of Commitment is made
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 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.**

Music

Blessing

May the God of grace and power
strengthen your arm and
refresh your spirit that you may
run and not grow weary,
walk and not grow faint;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Peace

Jesus preached peace to you who were far away
and peace to those who were near.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England,
material from which is included in this service, is copyright
© The Archbishops' Council 2000.*

*Common Worship: Times and Seasons,
material from which is included in this service, is copyright
© The Archbishops' Council 2006.*

*Also some material from,
Liturgical Resources for Services of Lament and Loss Related to Coronavirus
Prepared by the Bishop of Southwark's Advisory Group for Liturgy
All Saints-tide 2020.*