

Sunday Morning Worship
Readings & Prayers for 10th November
Remembrance Sunday



Jonah 3.1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across.

Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

This is the word of the Lord.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

This is the word of the Lord

Hebrews 9.24-28

For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world.

But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgement, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Mark 1.14-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Reflection by Lindsey Coulthard

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the guns fell silent.....

On November 11th, 1918, after more than four years of horrific fighting and the loss of millions of lives, the guns on the Western Front fell silent. On that day Robert Casey of the 124th Field Artillery Regiment, 33rd Division, wrote the following words:

"And this is the end of it. In three hours the war will be over. It seems incredible even as I write it. I suppose I ought to be thrilled and cheering. Instead I am merely apathetic and incredulous...."

There is some cheering across the river – occasional bursts of it as the news is carried to the advanced lines. For the most part, though, we are in silence.....

With all is a feeling that it can't be true. For months we have slept under the guns.....We cannot comprehend the stillness."

If you've ever visited the Imperial War Museum in London – you'll know they have a collection of recordings of soldiers speaking about the First World War. They all share one theme in common – the silence.

Later this morning we'll share in a two minute silence – along with the rest of the nation. But what is our silence for today?

Well our service today is full of music and symbolism; the words we say, the poppies we wear offer us a way in to remembering the monumental cost of war and the sacrifices made by so many. But at the very heart of our remembrance – there is an emptiness. Two minutes for which there are no words. No words to remember the horror. No words to describe the trauma, or the shellshock or the PTSD experienced in the years that followed. No words to explain why the war that was meant to end all wars did not end all wars. We only need look to the middle east, to Russia and Ukraine.....

In our Gospel reading today we hear Jesus call a group of young men to follow him. Simon, Andrew, James and John left everything behind to follow Jesus; their families, their income and their communities - with absolutely no idea where they were going. Today we remember the millions of women and

men who also left everything behind with no real idea of where they were going, to follow orders in wars and conflicts.

During a recent Padre's hour with the Royal Air Force Cadets we talked about service and sacrifice in the light of remembrance. When these young people offer themselves in service – they commit to a code of conduct; a particular ethos. When we offer ourselves as disciples in the service of others – we commit to a way of life. All of which will include certain sacrifices. I was delighted that the cadets made the connection between the sacrifices made by men and women in war and the ultimate sacrifice made by Jesus.

As followers of Christ, we gather here at this table every week to remember that sacrifice made by the one we follow. And at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer as the bread and wine are lifted up – we pause in a moment of silence. We do that to remember the one whose body was broken for us; the one whose blood was shed for us. A moment of silence between remembering his death and receiving his life.

In a short while our two minute silence will begin with the last post which is used at military funerals to honour the dead. But it ends with the reveille which is sounded to get soldiers up in the morning. The silence between those two markers is almost like a Holy Saturday – that space and time between death and resurrection . A stillness - a place beyond words. A place that begins in death and ends in hope. Hope that death had meaning, that the sacrifice was worth something, and that we might allow ourselves to be changed by another's gift.

In the silence this morning there is space for whatever we bring. We come as we are with all that we carry. As a Christian community, in that moment of silence for which we have no words, we're reminded of the silence and stillness of Holy Saturday. Yet in the body broken for us and the blood spilled for us – we share in the bread and cup of life.

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the guns fell silent.....

Prayers

Let us pray to Almighty God, the One Whose compassion never fails, and Whose steadfast love never ceases.

To the bidding: Lord God.

Please respond: **Hear our prayer.**

Lord God.

Heavenly Father, on this Remembrance Sunday we begin by remembering Your sacrifice on the Cross and the death You died for the world that You created. We thank You Lord Jesus that You are now in heaven, appearing on our behalf in God's presence, for us, and we thank You that You will appear a second time to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for you.

Silence

Lord God.

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, on this Remembrance Sunday we remember before you the courage and selflessness of the men and women who have bravely served their country in times of war and conflict. We pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war for the cause of peace and freedom, each one known by You, and we pray for those who mourn their death. We pray for all members of our armed forces who still carry the wounds of war or who are in danger this day, for their families and friends and all who pray for their safety. We pray too for civilians whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, and especially for the children caught up in conflict.

Silence

Lord God.

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, on this Remembrance Sunday we call to mind, in penitence, the anger and the hatreds of humanity that drive so much bloodshed. Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, You Who said 'Blessed are the peacemakers' all those

years ago on that mountainside, we pray for peacemakers and peacekeepers, for all in government who seek to keep this world secure and free. We pray for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious and we pray that You would give them wisdom and resolve as they search for reconciliation and peace. Help us, Your followers, to be peacemakers in our lives and in our community.

Silence

Lord God.

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, on this Remembrance Sunday, in penitence, we hold before you the devastation that war brings to the beauty that You created. Give us wisdom and reverence to use the resources of nature but not to abuse them, and please help us to care gently and with justice for Your earth, so that generations to come may continue to praise You, our all-glorious Creator God.

Silence

Lord God.

Hear our prayer.

Father God, on this Remembrance Sunday, we hold before you those who are unwell, in body, mind or spirit. We pray that You would give them hope, patience, and courage, and give strength, wisdom and gentleness to those treating and caring for them. From our own community we pray especially for Christine Dunne, Bill Jones, Leon and Valda Bailey, June Hume, Ken and Joyce Pringle, Ann Hunt, Anuwat Wanggane, Alan Coe, Jack Tubby, Gloria, Roger Jones, Patricia Ash, Ryan Day, Brenda Hulland, David New, and Adrina and Alan Price.

And in a moment of quiet we lift before you those others on our own hearts this morning who need Your touch and Your peace, and those who have no one to pray for them.

Silence

Lord God.

Hear our prayer.

Father God, on this Remembrance Sunday, we remember before you all who have entered into newness of life in your kingdom, remembering those whose names we have never known, and those whose names appear on our war memorials. We remember the recently departed including Martin Cox, and those we love but see no longer, and we pray for all who mourn.

We remember too with love and gratitude those whose anniversary of death falls at this time: Ruth Cornock-Taylor, Joan Harper, Dot Roberts, Rita Schofield, Libby Sheenan and Ella Macdonald.

We thank You that nothing can separate Your children from the love of Christ, and we commend them all into your unfailing and eternal care. May they rest in peace **and rise in glory**, and grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord God.

Hear our prayer.

Lord God, on this Remembrance Sunday, as we honour the past, help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world and help us to put our faith in your future, for you are our only source of life and hope.

Merciful father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.