

Remembrance Sunday Service, 10am 8 November 2020
Broadcast on Youtube during Second Lockdown
(search Youtube for Writtle with Highwood and Roxwell churches)

GATHERING

All gather in silence

The presiding minister reads the following sentences:

God is our refuge and strength;
a very present help in trouble.

Psalms 46.1

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 gather together in the presence of God whose
purposes are good; who loves us; who gave us Jesus Christ
for the life of the world; who by his Holy Spirit leads us in
his way.

We gather together to worship God and to 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 gather together to pray to God 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. We ask his help and blessing that we may do his
will, and that the whole world may accept him as Lord and
King.

HYMN

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home;

Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night

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before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

ACT OF PENITENCE

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world; its pride, its selfishness, its greed; its evil divisions and hatreds. Let us confess our share in what is wrong, and our failure to seek and establish that peace which God wills for his children.

After a short silence, all say

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought,
word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

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.

THE COLLECT

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 by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE READINGS

Isaiah 2 vv 2 – 5: A Prophetic Vision of Peace

In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's Temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more. Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

John (15. 9-17)

Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you O Christ.

THE SERMON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the peace of the world: for statesmen and women, for rulers and despots, for all in positions of power, that they may have the wisdom and courage to do what is right in the service of their people to whom they have responsibilities....

For all who work to improve international relations, that they may find ways to work for consensus and to reconcile people of different race, colour and creed....

And for all peoples the world over, that they may have justice and freedom, and live in security and peace....

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of war:
for the injured and the disabled,
for the mentally distressed,
and for those whose faith in God and humanity has been weakened or destroyed...
For the homeless and refugees,
for those who are hungry,
and for all those who have lost their livelihood and security...

For those who mourn their dead,
those who have lost husband or wife,
children or parents,
and especially for those who have no hope in Christ to sustain them in their grief...

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God;
for those who love them in death as in life,
offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

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

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Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

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.

**Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your
Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. 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 it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen**

HYMN: O valiant hearts.

O valiant hearts who to your glory came
through dust of conflict and through battle flame;
tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
your memory hallowed in the land you loved.

2. Proudly you gathered, rank on rank to war,
As who had heard God's message from afar;
All you had hoped for, all you had you gave
To save mankind – yourself you scorned to save.

3. Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,
rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,
while in the frailty of our human clay,
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self-same way.

4. Still stands his Cross from that dread hour to this,
like some bright star above the dark abyss;
still, through the veil, the Victor's pitying eyes

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look down to bless our lesser Calvaries.

5. These were his servants, in his steps they trod,
following through death the martyred Son of God:
Victor, he rose; victorious too shall rise
they who have drunk his cup of sacrifice.

6. O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our dead,
whose cross has bought them and whose staff has led,
in glorious hope their proud and sorrowing land
commits her children to thy gracious hand.

THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

*(the laying of wreaths and poppies would normally happen
at this point)*

The Minister says:

Let us remember before God, and commend to his safe
keeping, those who have died for their country in war; those
whom we knew and whose memory we treasure; and all
those who have lived and died in the service of the peoples of
the world.

THE LIST OF THE WRITTLE, HIGHWOOD, AND ROXWELL FALLEN IS READ ALOUD

They shall grow not old, as we are 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.
We will remember them.

HERE FOLLOW THE LAST POST AND THE SILENCE THE REVEILLE IS SOUNDED

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.

THE KOHIMA EPITAPH IS SAID:

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

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All stand for AN ACT OF COMMITMENT

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 you the fears in us that have not 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.**

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen.

2. Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.

BLESSING

God grant to the living grace,
to the departed rest;
to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth 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 us and remain with us now and for ever.
Amen.