

Salford Methodist Circuit



Remembrance Sunday - 8th November 2020

Pat Wilson, Carole Barratt and Brian Barratt

Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:*

*Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love:
Great is thy faithfulness...*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is thy faithfulness...*

Good morning and welcome to our Remembrance service. I'm sure that many of you, just like me, will be sad that we've not seen the parades and the bands and the cenotaph prayers. But we can still mark the day in these difficult times. We can experience a different type of Remembrance Sunday. But we mark the day and remember with gratitude the sacrifices made by so many people to keep our country safe. And we can pledge anew our call to peace and hope; so let us pray.

A Bidding Prayer

Aware of the voices clambering to be heard on Remembrance Day:
Those who demand the gratitude be shown to those who made the supreme sacrifice, and given lives for Sovereign and country.
Those to whom this is irrelevant, past history.
Those who wish to remember and expect others to do so.
Those for whom today is but a reopening of wounds and a delay in healing.
Those who glory in war and those who loathe it.
Those who see war as a cruel necessity and those who see it as an evil in which no-one should participate.



Deliver us all from an insensitive, polarising of attitudes.
Amen.

Hymn: In Christ Alone

*In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious Day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine -
bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!*

Bible Reading: Micah 6 : 8

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require
of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with
your God?*



Bible Reading: Matthew 5 : 1 - 12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Hymn: I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say

I heard the voice of Jesus say:

'Come unto me and rest;

*lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.'*

I came to Jesus as I was,

weary and worn and sad,

I found in him a resting-place,

and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say:

'Behold, I freely give

the living water; thirsty one,

stoop down and drink and live.'

I came to Jesus, and I drank

of that life-giving stream;

my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,

and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say:

'I am this dark world's Light;

look unto me, your morn shall rise,

and all your day be bright.'

I looked to Jesus, and I found

in him my star, my sun;

and in that light of life I'll walk,

till travelling days are done.



Two Minutes Silence

They shall not grow 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.

We will remember them.

[Silence]

When you go home, tell them of us and say "For your tomorrows, we gave our today".

Talk

The scripture readings we just heard are very meaningful. The Old Testament reading reminds us that all God wants in return for his great love is for us to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God. During difficult times, communities come together; they come together in care and in love, they share what they have, they support each other. I remember my grandmother telling me to always be generous, because she was generous in the war days and gave out little cups of sugar and all sorts of pieces of food that she could spare, and always was rewarded with far more than she ever gave. God was there, and he protected her and he guided her.

The New Testament reading reminds us of all the blessings that God bestows upon us in our difficult days, and in our dedication for peace. This gives us hope, and God's peace, which we can pass on to others. At this time, one of the things I miss most about Remembrance Sunday is not being able to see the veterans from Broughton House. In days gone by they used to march, and then as time progressed they just came in a minibus at the back of the procession, and then in latter days just the odd one or two attending the cenotaph service. But we're very lucky because we have a nice video to show you of Broughton House, which has extended itself not only to the war veterans of the previous wars that we've had in the country, but also for new veterans; people that come back home from different places they've deployed to and have nowhere to live. And it becomes a village - a village where the community can mix in to with the veterans, and so the short video that we will show you shows some of their thinkings about what happened to them, and their reminiscing. So I hope you enjoy it just as much as I do.

[VIDEO - Broughton House Residents Interviews -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4GNTPscoPs>]

Hymn: All My Hope On God Is Founded

All my hope on God is founded;

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*he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.*

*Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust;
what with care and toil we fashion,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.*

*God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom passing thought;
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of nought.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.*

*Daily doth the almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.*

*Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all
ye who follow shall not fall.*

Prayers of intercession.

Living Lord, in a dark hour you spoke of the gift of peace, we seek that gift for ourselves. Grant us, we pray, the inner serenity which you alone can give that we may become messengers of peace to a strife-torn world.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Give peace in our hearts, O Lord.

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O Lord, we pray for all who suffer for their fidelity to the calling to be your witnesses; all who suffer for trying to live by the truth they have received and all who are slandered, ill-treated, falsely imprisoned or tortured.

Crucified and risen Lord, may they, sharing your anguish, know that they will also share in your victory.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Give peace in our hearts, O Lord.

We pray for all who suffer as a result of the wickedness and folly of others. We especially pray for those who suffer from the breakdown of law and order, or from the absence of just and humane laws and are thus denied the freedom to realise their birthright as your children on this earth.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Give peace in our hearts, O Lord.

We pray for those who are fighting; injury, disfigurement, death, their constant companions; nerves and bodies strained beyond endurance, the streams of compassion drying up within them, their only goal the destruction of 'the enemy'. Whatever the colour of their skin - we pray for them. Whatever the sound of their tongue - we pray for them. Whatever the insignia they wear - we pray for them.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Give peace in our hearts, O Lord.

We pray for all those who have been broken in battle; for those who weep and for those who can no longer weep; for those who feel the anguish and those who have lost the capacity to feel for all prisoners and for all jailers; for those who exist in war-torn lands and for those who no longer have a homeland.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Give peace in our hearts, O Lord.

We pray for all those who stir up strife; for all who make a profit out of the misery of others; and for all who believe that war is inevitable. We remember those who have died, Lord. We pray that you may hold us fast amidst all the evils of this world that at the last we may enter into the peace and joy of your kingdom.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Give peace in our hearts, O Lord.

Amen.



Blessing

Send us out to be beacons of peace in a dark world of conflict. Make us instruments of peace for whoever we meet and wherever we go. In the name of the Prince of Peace, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hymn: Go Peaceful

*Go peaceful
In gentleness
Through the violence of these days
Give freely
Show tenderness
In all your ways*

*Through darkness
In troubled times
Let holiness be your aim
Seek wisdom
Let faithfulness
Burn like a flame*

*God speed you
God lead you
And keep you wrapped around his heart
May you be known by love*

*Be righteous
Speak truthfully
In a world of greed and lies
Show kindness
See everyone
Through heaven's eyes*

*God hold you
Enfold you
And keep you wrapped around his heart
May you be known by love
May you be known by love*



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