

# Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit

Home Worship Sheet – 8<sup>th</sup> November

Remembrance Sunday 2020

**This short act of worship has been prepared and written for you by Rev Marian Jones.**

Today, as we worship, we are aware that national and local Remembrance Sunday commemorations are very different from those of previous years. Individually, in our homes, we gather to worship God.

## Call to worship:

**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.**

## Hymn: O God, our help in ages past

To listen to the hymn in a new tab: press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#).- Close the tab after the hymn.

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.**
  
- 2 Before the hills in order stood  
or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.**
  
- 3 A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.**

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

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

### Opening Prayers:

God of love,  
you make the sun rise and the rain fall  
on good and evil alike,  
showing no partiality.  
You support the oppressed  
and hear the cry of the afflicted.  
May we sense your healing presence  
on this day of remembrance;  
and know the power of your reconciling love,  
shown in your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord, you promise a place in your kingdom to all who call to you in  
penitence and faith.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Lord, you bring comfort to those who mourn and have suffered  
loss.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Lord, you speak your word of peace in times of conflict and you  
calm our fears.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

In Christ we are set free.

Through Christ we are forgiven.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

Lord of the nations,  
Saviour and judge of all:  
remove from human hearts all bitterness and hate,  
grant to those who have died in war your mercy and forgiveness  
and bring us all to the peace of your eternal Kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who suffered and died,  
and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end. **Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading: Micah 4: 1 - 8**

To listen to this reading, by David Suchet from BibleGateway in a new tab press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the reading.

**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 peoples will stream to it.**

**Many nations 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 many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.**

**They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more.**

**Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig-tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken. All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.**

**'In that day,' declares the Lord, 'I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles and those I have brought to grief. I will make the lame my remnant, those driven away a strong nation. The Lord will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and for ever.'**

**As for you, watchtower of the flock, stronghold of Daughter Zion, the former dominion will be restored to you; kingship will come to Daughter Jerusalem.'**

### **The Gospel: Matthew 5: 43 - 48**

To listen to this reading, by David Suchet from BibleGateway in a new tab press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the reading.

**You have heard that it was said,**

**“Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.”**

**But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.**

**If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?**

**Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

New International Version

### **Reflection**

**Strange times: I have more time for reading, for music, for watching television, for simply doing nothing. Flicking through the channels, I found David Walliams as he traced his ancestry and learned about the life of his great grandfather who had been a farm labourer. He signed up and, because of his height – he was 5ft 9ins, regarded as tall in 1914 – he joined the Grenadier Guards, leaving behind his wife and young children. If my memory is accurate, he served for about three months before returning back home and into hospital. He went back to the front line, to the Somme, for a short time before being returned home to be admitted again with ‘shell shock’ to what was described then as a lunatic asylum, where he remained until his death in 1962.**

**Today, with greater knowledge of psychology and psychiatry, so many who serve in our armed forces return from active service suffering and trying to live with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) which is what ‘shell shock’ was.**

**As we remember those who died serving their country in wars past and present, we remember, too, those who live with the consequences, those with physical and mental injuries, and as well as those people, I want to remember those who, with enormous courage, chose not to fight; the families who waited anxiously and those who wait now, hoping and praying.**

**The bible records much violence, many wars and countless deaths, especially in the Old Testament, and it is a heartbreaking reflection that there has probably never been a time when conflict hasn't existed somewhere in the world.**

**The prophet Micah was writing around 700 years before Christ, and in our reading today he prophesied a future of hope, an ideal world, a world when nations come together in peace instead of war. His words came against a background of violence with the fall of Samaria in the North and instability in the region created by the aggressive superpower of Assyria. However, he never lost faith for the future. His vision saw a time when the arms of war would be turned into farming tools and people would live peacefully together.**

**Jesus was born into an occupied land and he lived and died in that land. The Jews were waiting for their king, the Messiah, and they expected him to overthrow the Roman invaders by the traditional, violent, means. Peace wasn't on the agenda in those New Testament times. Jesus taught the disciples, and anyone who would listen, about living together, about mutual respect, love for neighbour and for enemy. It didn't suit the Pharisees and religious leaders because he threatened the status quo, and anyway he didn't fit their idea of the anticipated mighty and all-conquering Messiah. The local Roman authorities were worried that any unrest would reflect badly on them.**

**They wanted a quiet life; peace on their terms was just fine.**

**Peace is a precious commodity. It is not unilateral, it cannot be "Peace on my terms". It's about mutual agreement and understanding. I struggle with this day – not because I don't want to remember but because I know that, in the end, warring factions have to sit down and talk; to reach an agreement. Is it naïve to ask why that can't be done**

before lives are lost? Peace has never been easy to achieve; sometimes it's difficult to establish and keep peace at any level in our society.

Yet regardless of the difficulties, peace is what we long for and what we are to strive for, what Micah foresaw and what Jesus proclaimed in his teaching on God's kingdom.

The driving force for peace must come from us, it must come from our remembrance of those who have given their lives in war, those injured in conflict and whose bodies and minds are changed for ever. For me, one of the saddest things is discovering that someone like Harry Billinge, a D-Day survivor who recently had a train engine named in his honour, spent two years in hospital as doctors tried to help him forget the horrors he had endured until, eventually, he was told that nothing could be done because the memories were too vivid.

As we remember those who have shaped the life of our country and our life today, we cling to Micah's vision and our hope for the future believing that through our vigilance, our voice, our commitment to Christ and his teaching and our prayers that peace will emerge and the values of God's kingdom will prevail. What does it mean to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us so that we may be children of our Father in heaven?

### **Act of Remembrance**

Let us remember before God and commend to God's sure keeping:

those who have died for their country in war;-

those whom we knew and whose memory we treasure;

all who have lived and died in the service of humanity –

### **Silence**

**They shall grow not 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.**



*Tower of London Poppy Installation 2014*

*888,246 poppies each intended to represent one British or Colonial  
Serviceman killed in World War 1*

**Let us pray:**

**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**

**A hymn read as a prayer of intercession and a prayer of thanksgiving:**

**What shall we pray for those who died  
those on whose death our lives relied?**

**Silenced by war but not denied,  
God give them peace.**

**What shall we pray for those who mourn  
friendships and love, their fruit unborn?  
Though years have passed, hearts still are torn;  
God give them peace.**

**What shall we pray for those who live  
tied to the past they can't forgive,  
haunted by terrors they relive?  
God give them peace.**

**What shall we pray for those who know  
nothing of war, and cannot show  
grief or regret for friend or foe?  
God give them peace.**

**What shall we pray for those who fear  
war, in some guise, may reappear  
looking attractive and sincere?  
God give them peace.**

**God give us peace, and, more than this,  
show us the path where justice is;  
and let us never be remiss  
working for peace that lasts.**



**God of love and mercy,  
we give you thanks and praise for the world you have created  
and given to our care,  
for your constant faithfulness in spite of our failings.**

**To reconcile us to you,  
You sent your son, Jesus Christ.**

**By his life of love,  
by his passion and death on the cross,  
his glorious resurrection and ascension into heaven  
and the gift of the Spirit, sent in his name,  
you challenge us and invite us to share his life.**

**We thank you for all who, living and dying,  
have given themselves in love and service.**

**You have promised that nothing in all creation  
can separate us from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Through your prophets, you have shared a vision of your world  
where swords are beaten into ploughshares  
and spears into pruning hooks.**

**Inspire us, by your Spirit, to work towards that goal  
and bring us to the heavenly city  
where you will swallow up death for ever  
and wipe away the tears from every face.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of your  
Spirit.**

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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.**

## Hymn: Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair

To listen to the hymn in a new tab: press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#).- Close the tab after the hymn.

- 1 Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,  
Lord, in the suffering this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset, your kingdom increase!
- 2 Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,  
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;  
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,  
give us compassion we pray:  
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain;  
come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

**3** Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,  
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

*God of the poor, -friend of the weak,  
give us compassion we pray:  
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain;  
come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

**4** Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams  
plundered and poisoned — our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;  
make us content with the things that we need.

*God of the poor, -friend of the weak,  
give us compassion we pray:  
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain;  
come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

**5** Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame  
until your justice burns brightly again;  
until the nations learn of your ways,  
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,  
give us compassion we pray:  
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain;  
come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

### **The Blessing:**

May the God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
comfort and assure us of his love  
in this world and the next;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**