

## **An Order of Service for Remembrance Sunday**

### ***The Gathering***

*All gather in silence.*

*The presiding minister reads one or more of the following sentences*

God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble. *Psalm 46.1*

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from whence will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 121.1,2*

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 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*

### ***An older person says***

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

### ***A younger person may reply***

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

***All affirm***

***All We will remember them.***

*The beginning of the two-minute silence may be signalled.*

*Silence is kept.*

*The completion of the silence may be signalled.*

***The following prayer is said***

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.

***All Amen***

**An 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 following hymn may be sung***

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

Under 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  
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all its sons 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.

(MP 498)

***Listening for the Word from God***

*The reader says*

**Hear these words from the New Testament.**

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.’ *Matthew 5.1-12*

***The Sermon (Margaret)***

**Hymn** Make me a channel of your peace

MP456

***Praying Together***

*Prayer is led*

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict,  
and ask that God may give us peace:

for the service men and women

who have died in the violence of war,

each one remembered by and known to God;

may God give peace.

**All God give peace.**

For those who love them in death as in life,

offering the distress of our grief

and the sadness of our loss;

may God give peace.

**All God give peace.**

For all members of the armed forces

who are in danger this day,

remembering family, friends

and all who pray for their safe return;

may God give peace.

**All God give peace.**

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;  
may God give peace.  
**All God give peace.**

For peacemakers and peacekeepers,  
who seek to keep this world secure and free;  
may God give peace.  
**All God give peace.**

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership,  
political, military and religious;  
asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve  
in the search for reconciliation and peace;  
may God give peace.  
**All God give peace.**

For those who live in the Holy Land of Palestine and Israel,  
and people in Ukraine,  
and people in Sudan, Yemen, Afghanistan  
and other countries torn by war,  
remembering the hostages and prisoners;  
may God give peace.  
**All God give peace.**

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.  
**All Amen.**

***All join together in the Lord's Prayer***

**All Our Father...**

*Representatives and other members of the public come forward to lay wreaths, light candles  
or offer other symbols of remembrance and hope, such as single flowers or crosses.*

***The Kohima Epitaph is said***

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

***Hymn*** I vow to thee, my country

***The Act of Commitment is made***

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

**All We will.**

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

**All We will.**

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

**All We will.**

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us  
that have not yet 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.

**All Amen.**

***The National Anthem is sung.***

***The Blessing***

God grant to the living grace,  
to the departed rest,  
to the Church, the King, 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 you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**