

# **Remembrance Sunday**



**St Swithun's Church Family**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Sharing together in spirit**

*Please use this booklet to **worship with us** – ideally at 10am on Sunday so that we know we are joining our prayers together but any time is good. Use a candle and a cross if you can find them to give your worship a focus.*

*The children might like to use the Sunday school resources provided by Izzy.*

*This is a Service of The Word. It doesn't matter if you are one person or a family together – use the booklet and go through the words – stop and reflect as you need to. There will be an audio recording of this service added to the website [www.saintswithuns.org.uk](http://www.saintswithuns.org.uk) There are various prayer resources and other things to look at on the website – if you have any feedback or anything to share please let me know.*

***Giving - if you usually give your collection on a Sunday morning in cash, and you are able to, please put this aside each week to bring to church when you are next able to. Even better would be to set up your giving online 'Saint Swithun's PCC' ; 60-05-11 ; 16126718 ; NatWest Bank) if you haven't already done this.***

*You might like to enhance your worship by singing or listening to a hymn or a song at various points – I have a few suggestions below – you tube is a great resource...*

Eternal Father Strong to save <https://youtu.be/BjcSpCSUjdk>

Abide with me <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p010v01z>

O God our help in ages past <https://youtu.be/H4WCLIC-LLs>

The day thou gavest <https://youtu.be/Pigh8VHr-ZE>

Cenotaph music -Bands of the Household Division

<https://www.householddivision.org.uk/act-of-remembrance>

Watch Martin Passande talking about being a warden in Belgium

<https://youtu.be/rbaC3DOH5c4>

## Introduction

Today is Remembrance Sunday. It is also the first Sunday of the second national lockdown – a day for mourning and reflecting, a day for thinking about our sacrifices for the greater good, a day for praying together and meeting in shared silence.

As we return to our worship in physical isolation from each other may we remain together in faith, hope and love remembering that we are a group of friends, the communion of saints.

## The Gathering

### The Greeting

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you**

### Opening Prayer

This day, God of hope,  
**may we dream your dreams;**

This day, God of love,  
**may we reflect your love;**

This day, God of justice  
**may we do your work;**

This day, God of peace,  
**may we taste your peace.**

### Prayers of penitence

*As we prepare to say sorry to God let us take a moment of quiet to recall our behaviour, our relationships, our attitude over the past few days – what do we need to repent of? What have we ignored or stayed silent on that we should say sorry for?*

We are sorry for the times we ignore the needs of others  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We are sorry for the times we do not listen  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We are sorry for the times when we cause arguments  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*We know that God forgives us when we say sorry*

## **The Absolution**

God forgives you.

Forgive others.

Forgive yourself.

Be at peace.

**Amen.**

## **The Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest,  
**and peace to all people on earth.**

*As we glorify God today, may we call to  
mind the things that God gives us which  
bring us joy.*

*Write them down and keep them close and  
remind yourself in the times you feel sad.*

## **The Collect**

God, our refuge and strength,  
bring near the day when wars shall cease  
and poverty and pain shall end,  
that earth may know the peace of heaven  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**



# The Liturgy of the Word

All-loving God, we give you thanks for your Holy Word.

Give us open hearts and minds,

give us willingness to be changed by our reading,

and make us hungry for new truths.

Help us to be generous with those who interpret the Bible differently, and save us from cold certainty.

**Amen.**

## The Gospel *Matthew 25.1-13*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

‘Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was

delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, “Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” But the wise replied, “No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.” And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, “Lord, lord, open to us.” But he replied, “Truly I tell you, I do not know you.” Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.



This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon Leon Clarke

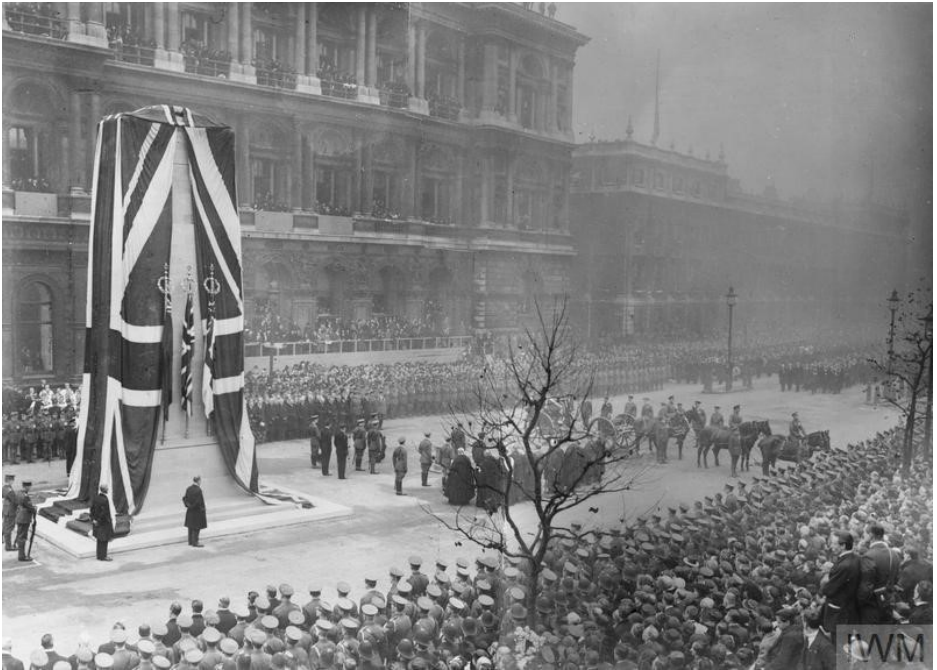
When I started thinking what to say today, I was expecting to be in church, speaking to you directly, but instead you're listening to this on audio again. It occurs to me that many of us are sitting down to listen to these services in a very formal way, maybe as a family, in a way that we really don't do with the radio or any other audio-only speech any more. It might remind us of images of families sitting down to listen to the news on the wireless during the wars, as they heard the latest dispatches.

Recently for Remembrance Day we seem to have concentrated on remembering the events that had happened exactly 100 years ago, as we marked the anniversaries of the major events of the first world war. Maybe we should have stopped that habit 2 years ago, but for old times' sake, I'll once more bring you the news from 100 years ago.

Armistice day 1920 was marked with a 2 minute's silence throughout the land, as it had been in 1919. However in 1920, 2 significant events happened; the unknown soldier was buried in Westminster Abbey,



*Coffin of the Unknown Warrior Westminster Abbey 7.11.20*



and the new cenotaph in Whitehall was unveiled, to be a centrepiece for the nation's remembrance of the dead, with its simple inscription 'the glorious dead'. But unlike in 1919, the tone was much more on remembering the dead, and not on celebrating the victory; the 1919 banquet in Buckingham palace wasn't repeated for instance.

What else can we remember about that time. Were the armed forces all safely back in their barracks? Well, some weren't. We were fighting in the Irish war of independence, and a few troops were left in the Crimea, supporting the tsarist forces in the Russian civil war. They'd all have retreated by the end of November, but some were still there on Armistice day.

Another news flash from 100 years ago - the third wave of the Spanish flu was over! It probably didn't come from Spain, but it ended up killing far more people than the war, but it was now over.



But back to Armistice day 1920. 100 years ago, the pattern was created that this day is about remembering the dead. Not remembering veterans as they do in America on November 11th, but remembering, as the words on the cenotaph put it, 'the glorious dead'.

I'd like to reflect on that phrase. The Glorious Dead. Do we consider some dead to be glorious, and others less so. Are they glorious because of their heroic death, or because of the great enterprise they were part of? Or should we consider all the dead to be glorious, but maybe some of them should be remembered on a different day, maybe last Monday, All Souls, and some remembered today.

Well my immediate thought is that, as Christians, we should treat every single person as made in the image of God, as Glorious.

There's actually a strong element of this within our marking of Remembrance Day. We don't just remember the great generals, the soldiers whose heroic deeds are recalled. We don't just remember those involved in particularly great battles.



We remember everyone, from those whose deeds are remembered to those who played a smaller and forgotten part. From those whose graves we can visit, to the 72,000 names of the missing inscribed on the monument at Thiepval, to the unknown soldier, buried with the highest honours in Westminster abbey 100 years ago. That seems to be a new character of the remembrance of the first world war; memorials of previous wars don't seem to have those long lists of names on them. And we're still captivated by tales of random ordinary soldiers, the lives they came from and how those lives were turned upside-down by the war. We're fascinated when programmes like 'Who do you think you are' focus on the lives of ordinary private soldiers. Because we want to truly honour every single one of those glorious dead, to remember that they were all people with their own lives and hopes for the future, lives that were turned upside-down and then cut short by the war, but which remain glorious. They are the image of God.

But should we stop there? Remember the glorious dead who died of the Spanish flu, but who have not been given their own day to be remembered every year. Remember also the many glorious dead in so many places who were trying to get on with their lives, when some army decided that violently rushing through their homes would make their country a better place, even if that army was right and their country is now a better place.

As we think back to 100 years ago, to a people struggling to make sense of the massive loss of life in the first world war, struggling to know what story to tell of those who had died, struggling to see the glory in some of the battles, we ourselves are struggling to make sense of another tragedy, as we think of those who've died so far from coronavirus, and worry that things aren't as under control as we had hoped. We had expected to be in church today, maybe using the familiar but distant tragedy of the world wars to forget the tragedy of our own times, but instead we're back to listening to recorded



services. And maybe it's time to broaden out who we remember. Let us today remember the glorious dead, all those made in the image of God who have gone before us. Especially today we remember all who have died in wars, and especially this year we remember all who have died in pandemics. Remember all our friends who have gone before us who were remembered last Monday, All Souls day. Remember their accomplishments, which may be minor in the eyes of the historians but are significant in the eyes of those who knew them and are significant in the eyes of God. Remember what they would have gone on to accomplish had their lives continued, which may have been minor in the eyes of historians, but would have been significant in the eyes of those who knew them, and in the eyes of God. Remember the passions that drove them, whether grand ideas that drove them to participate in great events or cares for the people directly in their lives. These are the glorious dead, all of them. These are all remembered by God, and should be remembered by us too. May they rest in peace and rise in Glory. Amen

## **Profession of Faith**

*We remember that we are joined together as a family despite not being able to meet in person at the moment – our faith holds us all – whoever we are, however we come to God:*

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.  
We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

# Prayers of Intercession

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Loving God, help us to remember that your love is powerful, that you love us as a Father. Guide all leaders who hold the most power in our world to keep us in peace and to bring us justice. We pray for the people of the United States of America in the wake of the election. In this country, as we begin the second national lockdown we pray for good decisions around healthcare and the economy. Today on Remembrance Sunday we pray that our world will be healed of our divisions and will find peace.

God of glory

**Grant us your peace**

Loving God, we pray for the Church, for all those who lead us, for St Swithun's and all who are enabling the Gospel to be lived and proclaimed in Hither Green. We pray for those in our church family who are feeling isolated and lonely. In courage and gentleness, may our church use its influence wisely for the flourishing of the Gospel.

God of glory

**Grant us your peace**

Loving God, we pray for our community, for those who live and work in our parish. Especially today we pray for those in our neighbourhood who are struggling without the resources they need and for those anxious about the future. We remember those volunteering to support those in need in our area. May we all remember to serve you with our time as well as our resources.

God of glory

**Grant us your peace**

Loving God, we pray for those who are in particular need – for the broken-hearted and the broken-spirited, for those who are unwell, or anxious about the health of their loved ones, for those who are deeply affected by the isolation and concerns of physical distancing. We especially remember today *Susan and Marshall, Karen, Paulette, Maureen and family, Pamela, Neil, Debbie,*

*Elaine and family, Clinton, Francis, Cynthia, Diane, Harold, Ivy, Sean, Taneisha, Talabi, Susan, Sydney, Edith, Vanda, Lorna, Ena and Stephen.* Bring them healing and wholeness and help us to care for others.

God of glory

**Grant us your peace**

Loving God, we thank you that you call us out of death into life which is eternal. We remember before you today all those who have died ... especially we remember *Eleshia, Florence, David and Peter* and all who we have loved and who are now no longer on earth.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord

**And let light perpetual shine upon them**

Merciful Father

**Accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.**

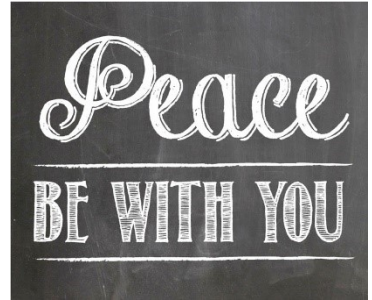
## The Peace

God is love and those who live in love  
live in God and God lives in them.

The Peace of the Lord be always with  
you.

**And also with you.**

*Who could you share God's peace  
with?*



*Spend some time planning a deliberate act of peace.*

## The Act of Remembrance

Today on Remembrance Sunday we remember tragic loss of life in warfare – and in this year of pandemic and the first Sunday of our second national lockdown let us remember all those who have lost their lives because of their battle with Covid. We remember those who have been affected by its impact and those who have died because of this illness. We remember especially all those who have died whilst serving others.

Today on Remembrance Sunday we remember all those members of the armed forces who have died while serving this country through any of the various wars or conflicts in which we have been involved. We also remember those civilians in this country and around the world who have died through wars or acts of terrorism. Let us commemorate and commend to the loving mercy of our Heavenly Father, those who have died in war.

*The Last Post is played*

### **The Exhortation:**

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.**

*Two minutes silence is kept at 11am*

*The Reveille is played*

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

Rest eternal grant them, O Lord.

**And let light perpetual shine upon them**

## **The 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 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.

**We will.**



# **Dismissal and Blessing**

## **The Blessing**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
And of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**



## **Contacts:**

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[www.saintswithuns.org.uk](http://www.saintswithuns.org.uk)



**Faith, hope and love  
in Hither Green**