



**Broomhill Hyndland
Parish Church**

"Lighting the Way"

for **Sunday 8 November 2020**

Dear friends

Welcome to another Sunday service.

Today is Remembrance Sunday and our thoughts and prayers are given primarily to those who have served and given so much and those who, even to this day, experience the after effects of war.

Our Remembrance Service will be different. Unlike previous years with a good attendance of our youth organisations, the raising and lowering of the Colours, the bugle playing by Stewart Gray and the March Past, our service today, whilst still trying to capture the essence of the service, will miss all these contributing factors which add to and make Broomhill Hyndland's service such an effective one.

I would like to say thanks to all of you, however you mark such an important occasion, for your efforts to say thank you to those who have strived for peace in our world.

It was a delight to see and hear the noise in the Naseby Halls last Sunday because our Junior Church was back. Many thanks to all those who not only made it possible but also to the staff and children who met up again with such great enthusiasm.

On Friday Sheila Tullett's funeral took place. Please remember all who knew her in your prayers today.

The pandemic continues but, as Gordon said after last Sunday's Zoom, we are all working hard; keeping our church not just functioning; not just open but making a difference. To you all, well done. Keep it up, remember (especially this day) and remember who you are doing it for.

George

Remembrance Sunday 8 November 2020

The readings for this Sunday are: Psalm 51 and 2 Samuel chapter 12: 1-13. These are not the lectionary readings for this Sunday but were used in preparation and reflection for today. You might like to read 2 Samuel chapter 11 to gain a fuller picture of the story.

For those who miss the hymns I have added them in here. The congregation in Naseby, whilst unable to sing them, have enjoyed following the words, giving them an opportunity to think more on what they mean and how they tie into the theme of the service. It also gives me the chance to 'slip in' some newer ones so that we can learn them for the future!!

Sunday's hymns are: A monument of marble; 710 'I have a dream'; 15 The Lord's my Shepherd; 266 God the Omnipotent and 476 Mine eyes have seen the glory.

Our Sunday reflection will be based on 2 Samuel but please read and ponder the suggested Scripture and see how it connects and what it says to you.

Rest in His arms read, reflect, rejoice...

CALL

Time is too slow for those who wait,
too swift for those who fear,
too long for those who grieve,
too short for those who rejoice,
but for those who love, time is eternity.

INTROIT

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
where there is injury your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt true faith in you.

*Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness ever joy.

Chorus

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive;
and in dying we are born to eternal life.
(CH4 528)

PRAYER

Almighty and Eternal God,
how much pain must earth endure before we learn to live in peace?
How many more young women and men must give their lives
before the tools of war are laid to rest?
How many more must suffer the trauma of combat
before harmony replaces the discord which damages so many lives?
Too much pain.
Too many lives.
Too much damage.

In deep gratitude we recall the courage, devotion and sacrifice; self-sacrifice
of those who have paid the ultimate price
and we pray for those who carry the hurt, the scars and the damage.
Forgive us if we have forgotten our share of those sins that lead to war
and assist the women and men of all nations
to acknowledge their common humanity
and to work to abolish war as a way of settling our differences.
Through education root out the suspicion

and prejudice that sets us against each other.

Through compassion and grace help us to rid ourselves of the spirit that provokes conflict and strife.

By social and economic and political reform teach us to create societies in which the equal worth of every individual is valued and respected.

Having seen the worst in humanity that leads to the battlefield, grant us a vision of the best in humanity which will lead us to peace.

AMEN

And now we turn to Scripture from 2 Samuel 12: 1-13

Let us listen, read and hear the Word of God ...

... this is the Word of the Lord, thanks be to Him.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

'God give us the courage in the face of the carnage that we see; to work for life, to live for love, to set all people free.'

AMEN

REFLECTION

I climbed the stairs and when I got to the top, I forgot why I had come up!

'Where are my glasses?' is a constant cry from me, even though I have more than one pair.

With Pam it's car keys, credit cards, money – you know the scenario, filling the shopping bags at the checkout, 'Oops, I've forgotten my bank card!'

It might be birthdays, dates, names – but we forget things, the memory not as it once was. On the positive side, the Revd Jimmy Simpson once described memory like 'a winter garden in which the seeds of the past lie dormant, ready to spring again into bloom.'

Pam, who has run courses on dementia, often talks about memory like 'a bucket', where those with the illness can remember and recall events a long time ago, deep down in 'their bucket' but new happenings, the short-term memory of what was done half an hour ago is lost I suppose, in the bucket analogy, 'splashing out the top'.

Reliving a memory creates a pathway in our brain and the more we walk the pathway the easier it is to retain. This isn't always a good thing, for some people have a very clear road on unhappy events in their lives, the wrong things when a slight occurred, imaginary or otherwise, where, since we've just past Halloween, they stir it like a witch's potion.

One of the classical Biblical stories of tortured memories is that of David.

Playing on in his mind was how he had thrown away his self-respect by plotting to murder one of his soldiers because he had 'eyes' on Bathsheba. In order to cover up her pregnancy he encouraged Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, to come home and sleep with his wife but Uriah refused because his men were out fighting. So David sent an order to put Uriah into the frontline so that he could steal Uriah's beautiful wife.



As that memory recurred agonizingly, David's words can be found in Psalm 51: 'Be merciful to me, O God... wipe away my sins... wash away my evil and make me clean from my sin. I recognise my faults: I am always conscious of my sins.'

Remembrance Sunday is a day consecrated to memory, and generally the month of November is also. David, King David, for me sums up why we should continue to remember. We need to recall the mistakes we have made, not to pull ourselves down but to lift ourselves up. We need to remember because as humans, we sometimes make the same errors, which become cyclical. We fall into a pattern that sometimes is difficult to break. Unable to stand the memory of how he had betrayed the finest person he had ever known, Judas hanged himself. Recall Macbeth, crying out in agony for someone to 'minister to a mind diseased, to pluck from memory a rooted sorrow, to raze out the written troubles of the brain.'

David said, 'I know my misdeeds. I know my mistakes. They are with me all the time.'

Remembrance Sunday is to recognise this fact. We know that the world is not a perfect place, and that is before we consider Covid. We are aware of the divisions in America; we are conscious of poor race relations; we are knowledgeable about areas of the world that are constantly in conflict, the Middle East a prime example. These troubles; mankind's ability to fail in relationships; the hunger for power and dominance, are 'with us all the time.'

It is a sign of strength to be aware of your weaknesses.

For there is the opportunity to improve and be a better person and create a better world. To lead to that better world of course we have the words of Jesus which speak of forgiveness, a fresh start, new beginnings. In the 1st Century world the opportunity to be aware of haunting memories but be forgiven and move on from them was certainly apparent for the Apostle Paul.

As a high-ranking Pharisee he had fiercely persecuted the Early Church but you will find in his letters how he never stopped marvelling that so great a wrong-doer as himself could be transformed by grace and the forgiveness of God.

We follow a faith which is all about remembering, remembering a story, a history, a journey. Both the Old and the New Testaments are filled with stories and festivals about remembering the past, yes, 'recalling mistakes ' but remembering in order that the future can change through our actions in the present.

I think that is key.

David was conscious of his mistakes but became a better man because of the grace of God.

Saul of Tarsus became Paul, recalling where he went wrong but using this to be an advocate for the Gospel.

As the seasons predictably change, we need to remember our mistakes, we need to remember those who gave so much in trying to correct them so that today's world would be altered for the better. We need to keep on telling the story of where we are and also the Good News of the Gospel that leads us on.

When newer generations look back I wonder what they will say about the year 2020?

Will they listen to the stories of how the year started so well, yet within months all the patterns and the certainties were destroyed? Will they recall the 'mistakes' we made and how we treated the older generation so poorly?

'I am conscious of my mistakes' said David.

As we give thanks to all those who served and serve, and to a God who remains unchanging, are we conscious of our errors and will we build a better future and a better world?

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN

PRAYER

In our remembrance we know
silence is not enough to change the world.
I have come that you may have life and life to the full.

In our remembrance we know
silence is not enough to bring peace to the world.
Behold I make all things new.

In our remembrance we know
silence is not enough to change the minds of leaders.
Your light must shine before people.

In our remembrance we know
silence is not enough to change the way we do things.
This is what I command you: love one another.

In our remembrance we know
silence is not enough to convey the truth of war.
Every tree is known by the fruit it bears.
The mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

In our remembrance we know
silence is not enough but your words are.
Come and follow me .

Where swords are turned to ploughshares
and spears to pruning hooks
where the guns fall silent
and the rumours of war cease
We see the love of God
written on the hearts of men and women
And offer our thanksgiving to God.

Where man says 'I am my brother's keeper'
and the guardian of his days
Where mothers' sons grow old
in lands free from strife
We see the love of God
written on the hearts of men and women
And offer our thanksgiving to God.

Where enemies destroy the barriers that divide
and no man's land becomes home to each and all
Where colour, creed and nation unite not stand apart
We see the love of God written on the hearts of men and women
And offer our thanksgiving to God.

Where silent remembering inspires songs of freedom, justice, truth
and the sacrifice of old shapes the passion for our future
Where those who gave their lives and youth
let us age in years and wisdom
We see the love of God written on the hearts of men and women
And offer our thanksgiving to God.

Where courage never fades in the battle for the right
and power is given to the weak, the least, the last:
Where compassion finds a home
to root out fear, mistrust or pride
We see the love of God written on the hearts of men and women
And offer our thanksgiving to God.

For the love of Father, Son and Spirit
is the source of human love:
the fire of God within us
shedding light upon our path
write this love upon our hearts God
as we offer you our thanks
through Jesus Christ our saviour
who offers life to us. Amen

BENEDICTION

God will be with you in the desolation of your days.
God will be with you in the darkest of your nights.
God will be with you in hopelessness and despair.
God will be with you in fear and anger.
God will be with you when all reason is gone.
God will be with you to love you and cherish you
until you are ready to face life again.

Go in Peace...

And May the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you
all.