

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

This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.

Lamentations 3.21-23

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.

Isaiah 40.31

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,

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 (for an alternative Prayer of Commemoration, see Page 5)

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.

An Act of Penitence may follow (see note on page 5).

The following hymn, or another that similarly expresses hope in God and trust for the future, 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.

Listening for the Word from God

The reader says,

Hear these words from the New Testament.

Either one or more of the following are read.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. *John 14.27*

The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. *James 3.17,18*

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. *1 John 1.5*

Or the following is read,

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

Praying Together

Prayer is led (for alternative Intercessions, see Page 6)

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.

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.

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.

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.

God give peace.

For peacemakers and peacekeepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free;

May God give peace.

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.

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.

Amen.

All join together in 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.**

Responding in Hope and Commitment

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.

A hymn may be sung.

The Act of Commitment is made (for an alternative Act of Commitment, see Page 6).

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.

Amen.

The National Anthem is sung.

The following blessing is used,

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the Queen, 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.

Amen.

Additional Resources

¶ *Texts appended to - An Order for Remembrance Sunday*

The following texts from the 1968 service may be used at the points indicated in the present order.

A Prayer of Commemoration

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

An Act of Penitence

Note: A note of penitence runs throughout the service. If, however, a specific act of penitence is required, it would fit most naturally after the prayer 'Ever-living God'.

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.

Alternative Intercessions

In peace let us pray to the Lord. We pray for the leaders of the nations, that you will guide them in the ways of freedom, justice and truth.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who bear arms on behalf of the nation, that they may have discipline and discernment, courage and compassion.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for our enemies, and those who wish us harm, that you will turn the hearts of all to kindness and friendship.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the wounded and the captive, the grieving and the homeless, that in all their trials they may know your love and support.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Most holy God and Father, hear our prayers for all who strive for peace and all who fight for justice. Help us, who today remember the cost of war, to work for a better tomorrow; and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict, bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

An Act of Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women: that we may help, encourage and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.

A Prayer for the Armed Forces

Almighty God, stretch forth your mighty arm to strengthen and protect the armed forces: grant that meeting danger with courage and all occasions with discipline and loyalty, they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace; to the honour of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Supplementary Resources

The following supplementary resources are provided for use in services on Remembrance Sunday in the Church of England.

Introduction to an Act of Remembrance

Let us remember before God, and commend to his safe keeping, those who have died for their country in war; [those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure;] and all who have lived and died in the service of the peoples of the world.

A list of those to be remembered by name may then be read.

Introduction to the Peace

Jesus said, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.'

John 14.27

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons/all-saints-advent#mmm315>