

Sunday, 8th November 2020

Remembrance Sunday

Good morning Everybody!
Welcome to our Service of Remembrance.



As with everything else this year, our Remembrance Service looks different. We might not be able to be together at our church and the War Memorial today, but I would like to thank you all for taking the time to Remember, wherever you are.

During our Act of Remembrance I will lay a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the community of Balerno and the Session clerk Malcolm Ogilvie on behalf of Balerno Parish Church. A big thank you to our piper Rurie Bruce, musical director Harry Thomson and Ishbel Smith, Peter MacLean, David Booth and Stephen Elliot for their contributions...

Let us now come together before God.

Call to worship (Psalm 105:7-8)

Minister: He is the Lord our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.
He **remembers** his covenant for ever,
the promise he made, for a thousand generations.

Hymn O God our help in ages past

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.

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Let us pray:

Eternal God, you know the names of every man and woman, every child and every creature that lost their lives in the Great War. You know the names of those who are dying in conflicts around the world today. You know our names and call us to be peacemakers, generous and compassionate. Bless our time together now.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have commanded us to love one another as you first loved us. Fill us today with your Father's love, so that our lives might be lived serving others. We pray this too for those who lead our nations, that peace and love might prevail over conflict and military action.

Father God, we thank you that when your Kingdom comes, it always brings peace and reconciliation. We ask you to use your people to be true peacemakers, by bearing witness to your love and sharing the great news of Jesus Christ with everyone we meet.

We ask in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray:

Our Father, who are in heaven, Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For you are the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

We Shall Keep the Faith¹ read by Ishbel Smith

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields, sleep sweet - to rise anew!

We caught the torch you threw and holding high, we keep the Faith

With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red that grows on fields where valour led;

It seems to signal to the skies that blood of heroes never dies,

But lends a lustre to the red of the flower that blooms above the dead

In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red we wear in honour of our dead.

Fear not that ye have died for naught; we'll teach the lesson that ye wrought

In Flanders Fields.

Mark 8:34-35 Peter MacLean

The way of the cross

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Hymn 220 The day Thou gavest Lord has ended

The day you gave us, Lord, has ended; the darkness falls at your behest.

To you our morning hymns ascended; your praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank you that your church unsleeping while earth rolls onwards into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping, and never rests by day or night.

As o'er continent and island the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent, nor dies the song of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking your children 'neath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are making Your wondrous deeds resound on high.

So be it, Lord: your throne shall never, like earth's proud kingdoms, pass away.
Your kingdom stands and grows for ever, Till all your creatures own your sway

Sermon

Today I would like to talk about symbols and how they help us to remember AND relay meaning.

For the children and young people I can also compare it to “brands”.

All of you know the Nike (wys) or ADDIDAS (wys) or any other brand’s logo and whether you are in the UK or on holiday abroad whenever you see the “logo” whether you understand the local language or not – you are reminded of the brand!

The same is true of toys like Lego or “Thomas the Tank engine” (wys voorbeeld)....

One hundred years ago, on Remembrance Sunday, another symbol was unveiled in London namely the cenotaph.

Something to help future generations remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the 1st and 2nd World Wars. Lots of other war memorials all over the world, including the one here in Balerno, has the exact same purpose.

Under normal circumstances, lots of people would gather around these memorials, these symbols of remembrance, today. Because of Covid19 we are not able to that this year – but that doesn’t mean we won’t remember.

Every time we see a war memorial, we remember, we think of the cost of war. But we don’t *need* a memorial in order to remember that: Remembering is something we can do anytime, anywhere.

In our own homes, or on our doorsteps, today, we will remember.

In a way, symbols link us all together. Just like the poppy, linking us all together in our remembering; or the symbol of the rainbow, linking our nation together in supporting the NHS during this pandemic.

For me, the most important symbol of all times, is, of course, the cross. In our Bible reading Jesus refers to suffering as taking up the cross.

The cross is the symbol of suffering, and the ultimate sacrifice paid by Jesus – to save us all.

Jesus said that living live, and following him, will not always be easy.

Soldiers across the ages and across the world have all carried their crosses. As did their families. The symbol of the cross on war graves remind us of that...

But the symbol of the cross reminds us about more than suffering. It reminds us about victory too. Because by dying on the cross, Jesus conquered death; by giving *his* life, he gave us LIFE everlasting.

And this is always true. Not only when we are in the church, or looking at a cross; the love God showed us in Jesus is everywhere, all the time. The symbol of the cross is just a reminder of that.

As we pause to remember today - lives lost in the past, *and* at the moment all over the world - let’s decide

May our handling of a very difficult time today, become a symbol of hope for generations to come.

Amen

Prayer of Remembrance and Dedication David Booth

Last Post Stephen Elliot

The Tryst Stephen Elliot

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

All affirm: We will remember them

Two minute silence

Buglers sound "Reveille" Stephen Elliot

The Laying of the wreaths while piper plays "Flowers of the forest"

Dedication – Rev Dr AJ Groenewald

MINISTER: "When you go home, tell them of us and say, **for your tomorrow, we gave our today**"

Hymn Abide with me verses 1,3,5

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee:
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Henry Francis Lyte, 1793-1847

Blessing receive the blessing of God and go in peace:

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, and all people, unity, peace and concord,
and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all now and for ever more. Amen

Prayer

Heavenly Lord,
We pray for everyone on earth
caught up in war.
Every man.
Every woman.
Every child.
Today we remember those who died for us long ago.
Still the wars go on... and on.
We know the world would be a better place
if all the fighting stopped.
We're sad and sorry.

Amen.