

Tingley Methodist Church Remembrance Sunday 2020



Call to worship

O God our Father, as we come to worship this morning, we know that we have entered into a great heritage and a great tradition.

We know too that we owe our liberty and our freedom to those men and women who throughout the years have lived and suffered, sacrificed and died for truth and right.

Help us today to remember them.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn: [For the healing of the nations](#)

Prayers

On this day of remembrance, come and be still before God.

As poppies sway in the breeze in the fields of Flanders, scattering seeds in the soil, so may we, wearing our poppies of remembrance, be scatterers of hope, compassion and peace.

Eternal God, you know the names of every man and woman, every child and every creature that lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars.

You know the names of all those who have died in wars since and who are dying in conflicts around the world today.

You know our names and you call us to be peacemakers, to be generous and to be compassionate.

Loving God,
sometimes we make decisions that rob others of choice;
sometimes we use resources that rob others of their share;
sometimes we use words that wound others;
sometimes we use names that belittle others.

We are sorry Lord.

Forgive us, and grant us your peace, we pray.

Amen

Bible Reading: [Matthew 5: 1-10](#)

Hymn: [Beauty for Brokenness](#)

Reflection

Today, we remember the past and we give thanks for freedom and for those who paid for it with their lives or with their health

And today, we also remind ourselves that we must live our lives in such a way as to avoid more wars.

Wars are usually brought about by people doing wrong, by people being selfish, by people being greedy. We haven't had a world war for some time, but there are plenty of wars still happening all over the world killing men and women.

Ordinary men and ordinary women.

You see, for me, war isn't about bands, parades, and ceremonial dress. War is about ordinary men and ordinary women, many of whom are named on our war memorials.

Now since I had the good fortune not to be born until 1967, I never had to do National Service and while I have won my fair share of medals for playing football, I have never being presented with a medal for military service or for bravery.

But I do have another sort of a medal. I didn't win it and I know I don't deserve it, but it was given to me by my wife and my children some years ago.

I wear my medal all the time, around my neck. My medal is my cross, mine is made of Whitby Jet set in silver but that's not really important.

What is important is that the cross helps me, helps us to remember Jesus. And Jesus is the one sure way that we have of trying our best to put an end to wars.

We must remember, on this Remembrance Sunday, that Jesus told us to forgive those who hurt us and to go on and on and on and on forgiving them. No wanting to get your own back, no vendettas, no tit-for-tat killings.

And although forgiving is a very difficult thing to do, I'm suggesting to you that it's the only way, **the only way** I can think of to avoid arguments and wars in a world which as far as I can see is more dangerous now than it was 100 years ago, 50 years ago, 10 years ago.

And the best way to forgive is to do the same as God does for us when we make a mess of things. He forgives us so much that it's like he overlooks that we have ever done wrong. So, in other words, I guess I'm saying to you that we must remember to forget, which seems a strange thing to say, especially today, and it's a very difficult thing to do.

But if we want to follow Jesus, we have to be like Jesus, and to be like Jesus we have to learn how to forgive.

The best I can suggest, is that we remember the bad things that were done and do whatever we can to try to make sure they don't happen again, but also that we forgive those who did the bad things. Indeed forgive them so much that it's like we overlook that they ever did them.

Difficult – yes.

But that's what Jesus did for us when he went to the cross, when he took upon himself the sin of the world that the world might respond. Jesus is the way, the only way, and one thing I am absolutely certain about is that no-one has ever told me or shown me, a better way.

May god bless you.

Amen

Act of Remembrance

Today is the day when we remember those who died in the First and Second world wars and in conflicts since. Their memory is treasured by families throughout this nation and across the world.

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.

2 Minutes Silence



The Kohima Epitaph

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

Prayers

Jesus, come among us as bringer of hope. We pray for the life of the world, for its diversity of culture and experience and life and faith. We pray for this world, for its leaders, and pray that all may work for justice and peace throughout the world.

Jesus come among us as bringer of healing. We pray for those whose lives have been and continue to be affected because of the conflicts of our world. We pray for all those who work in the conflict zones of the world as they seek to bring medical care in difficult circumstances.

Jesus come among us as bringer of light. We pray for hope for our world. We give thanks for the many people who bring light and hope into their world. We pray for the Church as we seek to discover more of the hope that God sets before us. We pray that the light of the risen Christ will give hope, as light shining in the darkness.

Jesus come among us as bringer of peace. In the unresolved questions that this day brings, may we find peace. In bringing the memories of those who have died, may we find peace. In the world in which we live today, may we find peace.

We bring our prayers in Jesus name.

Amen

Hymn: [O God, our help in ages past](#)

Blessing

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to all people unity, and to the world peace.

Strengthen us to follow the steps of your Son in the ways that lead to the fullness of eternal life.

And as we take up our lives again, grant us Lord the wisdom to use aright the time that is left to us.

Amen