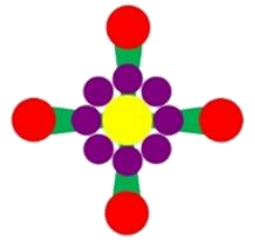


The Benefice of Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme 9 November 2025



Liz has prepared our worship for today

Service for Remembrance Sunday
(including extracts from Liturgies from Lindisfarne)

Today is Remembrance Sunday and will be marked by many people throughout the country and further afield. Many people will gather in churches, by war memorials or community centres whilst others will take time to reflect quietly on their own. It's a time to remember with gratitude the sacrifice of those who have died in the service of their country and those who still suffer from the consequences of war and conflicts, both members of the armed services and civilians. But it is also a time for a renewed commitment to working for peace and reconciliation in personal, civic and global situations.

We begin this written service by focusing on the acts of Remembrance, sharing in many of the words and thoughts which will be used in different parts of the country – but then move into another part of our shared memory as we focus on the life and teaching of our Lord Jesus, the Prince of peace.

We carry with us the remembrances of disasters,
large and small, global and local, national and personal.
Each, in its way, changes our world for ever.
As we gather on Remembrance Sunday,
may we lay all our losses before God,
trusting that we will be led to new life
and fresh hope for the future.



Creator God, who brings one day to a close and a new day to dawn,
we remember those who gave their today that we might have a tomorrow.
Eternal God, we honour you for the wondrous gift of life, for the awesome gift
of choice, and for the immense gift of possibility, for good or ill, which you have
given your human family.

From Psalm 85

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

We give thanks for those who put duty before life,
for those who lost their lives
and for those who continue to struggle following their experiences.
We give thanks for the loyalty and fortitude of those who kept the home fires
burning during dark times.

*Take time to remember before God and commend to His sure keeping those who
have died for their country in war: maybe those whom you knew and whose
memory you treasure, those still living who have been disabled, those who
fought and came through unhurt. And all who have lived and died in the service
of mankind.*

Take time to acknowledge our debt to God and to them all.

They shall not grow 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.**

Let us confess our share in what is wrong and our failure to build peace based upon good relationships and just dealings:

Christ, victim of hostility

have mercy upon us

Christ, vanquisher of barriers,

have mercy upon us.

Christ, linking us across the shores of treachery and time,

have mercy upon us.

This world is home to one vast human family,

We sleep beneath one roof, the starry sky;

We warm ourselves before one hearth, the blazing sun.

Upon one floor of soil we stand and breathe one air and drink one water, and walk the night beneath one luminescent moon.

The children of one God, we are brothers and sisters of one blood and members in one worldwide family of God.

(from the book of Remembrance ,

Cathedral of St Paul the Apostle, Los Angeles)

Loving God, source of healing and hope,
strengthen us for life's challenges,
help us to trust the future to you,
and to remember the courage
of those who have faced adversity with faith.

Amen.

We continue with today's lectionary readings, remembering once again the life and teaching of Jesus, the Prince of peace and bearer of love, hope and reconciliation for a hurting world.

First Reading 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5. 13-end

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here.

Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Second Reading Luke 20: 27-38

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.'

Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.'

Today we pause to remember... to remember lives given in service and sacrifice, to remember those who still bear the scars of conflict, and to remember that peace is always costly.

But we also remember in the deeper, spiritual sense, we remember who we are and whose we are.

In our reading from 2 Thessalonians, Paul writes to a community that is unsettled and fearful. They've heard rumours that the end of days has already come, that they have somehow missed out on God's promise. Paul reassures them: "Stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught." He reminds them that God has "chosen them as the first fruits for salvation, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth."

Even in uncertain times, when the world feels unsteady, or dark, or violent, we are still held. God's purpose does not change. God's love does not falter. That is a truth we can cling to on Remembrance Sunday. Because remembrance is not just about looking back, it is about looking forward in faith.

And today, as we look forward, children from our uniformed groups will be present at some of our Benefice services and in Cullingworth, the children will be doing the prayers, praying for peace.

It's something truly remarkable that in our villages, those groups still thrive. They remind us that remembrance is not only an act of the past, but an investment in the future.

When we teach children about peace, courage, service, and kindness, we plant the seeds of a gentler world, one where understanding overcomes hatred and faith overcomes fear.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is challenged by the Sadducees, people who didn't believe in resurrection. They ask him a complicated question about marriage in the life to come, trying to trip him up. But Jesus' answer lifts their thinking beyond earthly limits. He says, "God is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

Those words are a promise. They tell us that even in death, life is not ended but transformed. The love of God is stronger than the grave.

That is the hope we hold on to today as we remember those who died in war, young men and women who never grew old, families who grieved, communities that carried loss for generations.

We honour their courage, but we also affirm the hope that their lives, and ours are held in the hands of the living God.

So remembrance becomes more than sorrow, it becomes a renewal of faith.

A reminder that peace is possible, because Christ has conquered death.

A call to live now as people of peace, to resist hatred, to choose compassion, to seek reconciliation where the world would sow division.

Paul says, “May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.”

That’s our prayer today: that as we remember, we would be strengthened to live faithfully, to work for peace, and to trust in the God who brings life out of death, and hope out of despair.

Intercessions with Margaret

Almighty God at this time of national remembrance we pray, God of hope and consolation, we hold before you all who have died as a result of war and those who continue to carry the scars of injuries to body or mind. May we remember the cost, lest we forget the value of our freedom, the responsibilities it brings and the sanctity of peace. Sustain us in our building of communities fit for heroes and where all can flourish to your honour and glory.

We rejoice and give thanks for the progress towards peace in the middle east.

We pray that the agreement reached may be supported from all sides and may achieve justice and security for all. We pray for all who have died in the conflict and for those who have lost everything. We pray for their families and for all who work to bring relief to such devastated areas. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray also for those in other areas of conflict in the world, Sudan, Ukraine, Russia and others not in the news; that ways to end the violence there and to bring lasting peace will be found. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly King whose power is exercised with love, we pray that all in positions of power in our world and in our church may use it seeking both to know and do your will and to know and serve the needs of others. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father we remember all those suffering from weather related disasters in the world, past and present, from fires, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricane Melissa in Jamaica, Haiti, and nearby areas, and we pray that the help and resources they need will be forthcoming for them, together with compassionate support from their friends and communities. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of time and eternity we thank you that all our times are in your hands. Rejoicing in your faithfulness we celebrate the life of our Benefice in stories of faith and hope, in worship offered, disciples gathered and communities transformed by your reconciling love. As we give you thanks for this place that we cherish help us to walk your way with its people. Give discernment and wisdom to those we have selected to find our new Rector and draw the person you have chosen to lead us into the future to respond to your call. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord God we bring to you all who are in need of your healing today. We pray especially for those in our Benefice who are sick or in pain in hospital and at home. We pray for those who are frightened and feel that everything is going wrong and for those who are sad and lonely through bereavement whether recently or a long time ago, those known to us and those known only to you. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Our gracious God and Father, creator of all that is good. We thank you for the gift of life, for the wonder of the world in which you have placed us, and for all the blessings you so freely you lavish upon us your children. Forgive us that, too often, we take your gifts for granted and think so little of the giver.

Help us to recognise your hand in the ordinary things of life and never to be ungrateful for food and clothing, work and recreation, health and home, family and friends, so may we live from day to day in the knowledge of your love and goodness, giving thanks always for all things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

*Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father
Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
With peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.*

(Songwriters: Jill Jackson, Sy Miller.)

Plant seeds of peace wherever your journey takes you
and bless others as you have been blessed.
Speak no words that would wound.
Withhold nothing that can be shared and pray always for peace.
May God the Father be your strength,
Jesus the Son be your inspiration
and the Holy Spirit be your guide
this Remembrance Sunday and always.

Amen.

