

Haverhill Methodist Church – Worship at Home  
Remembrance Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Welcome Message – Revd. Peter Goodhall

On this Remembrance Sunday we join as one nation to solemnly remember those who in two world wars as well as in other battles and current conflicts have given the most priceless gift of all: their very lives in the service of our country, in the pursuit of a more peaceful world - lives given for freedom and justice. May we receive God's gift of peace in our hearts today.

Hymn/Song

Bible Reading Psalm 46

Time of silent remembrance, concluding with these words by Laurence Binyon in his poem 'For the fallen'

*Silence*

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.**

“When you go home tell them of us and say for your tomorrow we gave our today”. (Kohima Epitaph)

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.**

Bible Reading John Chapter 15 verses 9-17

Reflection

The words of the hymn 'O Valiant hearts' contain these lines:

*Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,  
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,  
While in the frailty of our human clay,  
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self same way.*

*Still stands His Cross from that dread hour to this,  
Like some bright star above the dark abyss;  
Still, through the veil, the Victor's pitying eyes  
Look down to bless our lesser Calvaries.*

*These were His servants, in His steps they trod,  
Following through death the martyred Son of God:  
Victor, He rose; victorious too shall rise  
They who have drunk His cup of sacrifice.*

Today we remember the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. We remember he died young. He rose young. We remember all that he has won for us through his dying and rising. Through his matchless love, Jesus has won for us: forgiveness from wrong, peace from conflict, victory from defeat, hope from despair and life from death. Greater love has no man than this that he lay down his life for his friends. In response, let us live our lives with love, let us pursue peace and let us lay down our lives in service to others.

Hymn/Song

### Reflection

Dame Vera Lynn, known as 'the forces sweetheart', passed away earlier this year. One of her most famous and popular songs is 'We'll meet again'. Altogether now:

*"We'll Meet again  
Don't know where, don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day  
Keep smiling through, just like you always do  
'Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away".*

In this second lockdown, we must hold on to this hope that as a church family 'We'll meet again'. On Remembrance Sunday, we must hold on to the promise that those we have loved and lost 'We'll meet again'. United with Christ, we can never be fully parted. Contemplating this phrase, I was prompted this week to write the following words which I pray will be a blessing to you.

### We'll meet again

When humankind turned from God,  
God broke the silence and gave His Son  
At Christmas came the promise 'We'll meet again'.  
Tempted in the desert, Jesus won the victory  
– but Satan whispered in his ear 'We'll meet again'.  
To sinful Zacchaeus hiding in the tree, came a promise of a visit,  
and tea.  
The Saviour called to him 'Come down, and we'll meet again'.  
In grief, Martha fell on Jesus and cried  
'If you had been here, my brother would not have died'.  
Jesus smiled and took her hand and said 'We'll meet again'.  
In the upper room, as wine and tears flowed,  
Jesus reassured his friends 'We'll meet again'.  
On Good Friday, as his head hung down on the cross in death,  
heaven thundered with His Father's breath 'We'll meet again'.  
When three days passed, on Easter Day he spoke to Mary  
'Didn't I say that we'd meet again?'  
As clouds enveloped him from view,  
the ascended Lord promised anew, 'We'll meet again'.  
From heaven rings the eternal story,  
our hope that in clouds and glory 'We'll meet again'.  
Now our hearts reply in joy or sorrow  
'Come, Lord Jesus, today and tomorrow, and we'll meet again'.  
Amen.

By Peter Goodhall 05/11/20

Hymn/song

## Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession

We offer to almighty God our thanksgiving for the many blessings with which he has enriched our lives.

Let us bless the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

For the Queen and her family, and all who under her bear the responsibility of government: Let us bless the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

For those who serve in the Armed Forces of the Crown on sea and land and in the air: at home and abroad - let us bless the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

For doctors, nurses, chaplains, and all who minister to those in need or distress: let us bless the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

For the unity of our people within the Commonwealth: let us bless the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

For the sacrifices made, especially in two world wars, and in recent conflicts whereby our peace has been preserved: let us bless the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

For the Royal British Legion: let us bless the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

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; for those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss; for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return; 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; for peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free; 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. 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 forever. **Amen.**  
Unite your prayers with the whole church as you pray  
The Lord's Prayer. 'Our Father...'

Hymn/song

### The Blessing

We offer to God our sacrifice of praise and the service of our lives.  
May 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 may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be with us all and remain with us always. **Amen.**

### Coffee Time Conversation

- What does Remembrance Day mean to you?
- Whose memory will you treasure today?
- What will help you 'keep smiling through' lockdown?

### Suggested Hymns and Songs

#### More Traditional Music:

O God, our help in ages past  
Love divine, all loves excelling  
Make me a channel of your peace

#### More Contemporary Music:

Beauty for brokenness  
Great is the darkness that covers the earth  
Jesus Christ I think upon your sacrifice

Keep socially distancing. Keep safe. Keep communicating.  
God bless you and keep you until we meet again.  
My prayers are with you.  
With love,

Peter