Cheshire South Circuit

Sunday 8th November 2026 Remembrance Sunday 

Opening Prayer

Remembrance Sunday is a time to remember those who lost their lives in the conflicts of the 1st and 2nd world wars and to remember all those whose lives were changed by those conflicts and the many conflicts since. It is also a time to remember all those around the world whose lives have been lost or changed because of the conflicts of the world since 1945/6. Today, many people within this nation and around the world will gather at Memorials on which are engraved the names of those who did not return to the community from which they left. Today we also remember those who have died as a result of wars between Ukraine & Russia, Israel and Palestine, and many other parts of the world. We pray for all who continue to work for peace within our divided and fractured world.

StF no. 696 *For the healing of the nations*

1 For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

2 Lead your people into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how, through care and goodness,
fear will die and hope increase.

3 All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

4 You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness,
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

CCL 155789 Fred Kaan

Let us pray together

Lord, You said "Peace, be still," and the storm was stilled. We confess that at times, we feel overwhelmed by the storm. But today, we lift our eyes to you—the Maker of heaven and earth. And we ask for a miracle…let your peace fill Israel and Gaza.
We lift our prayer to you**,** **Lord, hear us.**
God, let violence cease in the region. Let there be no more bloodshed. We know your heart breaks for those killed and those left behind—for the orphaned child, the injured elderly, those abducted and families desperate for safety. Lord, speak into this crisis.
We lift our prayer to you, **Lord, hear us**.
We pray for those who have lost loved ones. Let your peace and love wash over them. Please protect and provide for those who have been abducted and bring them home safely. Let them be reunited with their loved ones–let them feel the comfort of their embrace**.**

We lift our prayer to you, **Lord, hear us.**
God, we pray that you open doors that allow food, essentials and medical supplies to reach those in need. May first responders be able to rescue the injured, comfort the grieving and help rebuild many lives.
We lift our prayer to you, **Lord, hear us.**
God, we pray for your peace and reconciliation to overcome conflict. We ask that you give wisdom and discernment to our global leaders and those in positions of power who have the ability to impact the course of this war. Help us to be bold advocates and agents of peace in our own communities.
We lift our prayer to you**, Lord, hear us.**
We pray for people scattered around the globe whose friends and family members have been caught in the crisis. We know you are with them. Help us to express your love to those affected in our communities, churches and workplaces.
We lift our prayer to you**, Lord, hear us.**
Lord, we raise Israel and Gaza to you, and pray for those suffering. We ask that you provide peace in this crisis, and protection and comfort for all those who have been impacted.
We lift our prayer to you, **Lord, hear us. Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Reading: *Micah 4: 1 – 4*
In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, 2 and many nations shall come and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. 3 He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; 4 but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

Today's Gospel Reading: *John 15: 12 – 17*
12 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Time to Reflect

We cannot escape the news of war at the moment. Our TV screens are full of the heart-breaking images and stories of innocent lives lost, thousands injured, homes destroyed, people starving and desperate for aid in Gaza. The war in between Russia and Ukraine continues, with no sign of cease fire.

It is important for us as human beings to have moments in our busy lives when we look back at the history which has moulded our individual and collective story. Today we look back at the story of the conflicts that have been, and remain part of, our human experience. We remember particularly the wars that engulfed the world in the 20th Century as we reflect on how these and further conflicts have shaped our world today. History tells us something of the background to the emerging conflicts of the 20th and 21st Centuries. We have the opportunity to respond to that story by seeking not to repeat the conflicts of the past and to join in the hoped for peace which was sought by those who were involved in the conflicts which ended in 1918 and 1945/6. Micah's vision of 'beating swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks' has still to be realised but that doesn't mean it is lost, for the vision remains and as Christians we recognise that God continues to challenge us to seek God's justice and peace for all within the world.

The causes of conflict are many, but the causes of peace are many too, in a world divided by inequality and injustice, where those with the least are usually the most affected by the conflicts going on around them.

As Christians we seek that way of justice and peace which Jesus shares with us and with our world. 'Greater love has no one than this but to lay down their life for their friends', he says. There have been, and continue to be, many acts of self-giving in time of conflict. There are those who have refused to stand by when others are persecuted; peacemakers have died in the cause that they were so passionate about, individuals have taken the place of those who are about to die, lives have been changed for the better as a consequence of some having given up their lives so that others might live. We see that in our reading today. Jesus was caught up in the politics and practice of his day. He too was brought into the conflicts of his day and was taken from a place of peace to the violence of the cross. To lay down his life though was not just for his friends around him at the time but for all of us, for all time, for ever.

Perhaps we can reflect further today on Micah's vision where 'nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid'. Our world seems so far away from peace at this time but today we remember the sacrifice of many in the past who brought peace to their world in their time, as we work for peace in our lives, the life of our community and the life of the world today. May we always hold close and share that rumour of peace which comes from God who upholds those we remember today. God's love casts out all fear - that place of peace is worth working for and sharing with our world today, which is a fitting way to remember all those who gave their lives in the service of others.

StF no. 707 *Make me a channel of your peace*

1 Make me a channel of your Peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love;
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord;
And where there's doubt, true faith in You:

O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.

2 Make me a channel of your Peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light;
And where there's sadness, ever joy:
O Master, grant that I may never seek…

3 Make me a channel of your Peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all men that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

CCL155789 Sebastian Temple

An 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. If you would like to join in the traditional words used on this Remembrance Sunday please do so now.
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. We will remember them.

We keep a time of silence

StF no. 693 *Beauty for Brokenness*

1 Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
Lord, in your suffering world this is our prayer.
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,
Sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase!

2 Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
Work for all people, trade for their skills;
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,
Voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

God of the poor, friend of the weak,
Give us compassion we pray:
Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain;
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame

3 Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
Cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

4 Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams
Plundered and poisoned–our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
Make us content with the things that we need.
God of the poor…

5 Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
Until your justice burns brightly again;
Until the nations learn of your ways,
Seek your salvation and bring you their praise.
God of the poor….

CCL 155789 Graham Kendrick

A prayer of blessing
Creator God, we commit to you the needs of the whole world. Where there is hatred, give love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is distrust, faith; where there is sorrow, hope, where there is darkness, light. And may the blessing and peace of God remain with us, with those for whom we have prayed, and all we remember today who are and have been caught up in the conflicts of this world. Amen.

This service was prepared by Jill Henderson