

Trinity Baptist Church
Remembrance Sunday 2020

Welcome:

- *Welcome to Trinity Baptist Church in the name of Jesus Christ. Today is Remembrance Sunday, and we will be joining in an act of remembrance around 11 o'clock. Today we will also be remembering the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we take communion together, albeit separately in our own homes.*
- Family news:*
- *Our plan is to live stream our services during this short lock down period, and we hope it will not be long before we can once again return to the hybrid of live stream and face-to-face services.*
- *Sun 22nd Nov, Church Members' Meeting, which will include a deacons election. Candidates: Yohan Keerthiratna, Caz Kirby-Smith and Ron Jones nominated for re-election; Andrew Altman for election for the first time. Please prayerfully consider.*
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Reading: Ps 11

**My Soul Finds Rest In God Alone
For Every Worry That Troubles Our Heart
To You Oh Lord, I Lift Up My Soul**

As we approach 11 o'clock, I want to now turn our attentions to Remembrance Sunday. This year marked the 75th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ day, and the end of the bloodiest war this world has ever seen. In a sense, it is right that those days were a celebration and a triumph: not a celebration of the British Empire (as it was then), or her triumph over her enemies; but a celebration of the end of war and of the triumph of liberty over oppression, of peace over hatred. War is always evil, but sometimes it may be necessary to prevent an even greater evil. This week I re-watched Saving Private Ryan. Aside from the slightly fanciful storyline, that film provides a wonderful insight into the sacrifices that so many were prepared to make, and into the brutality they encountered, for us, for the causes of peace, of racial equality and of freedom of thought and belief.

And that is what we remember today: we remember those, both military and civilian, who temporarily relinquished their freedoms, in many cases giving up their very lives, to protect the freedoms we enjoy today, and to defend the defenceless others, whether personally known or unknown. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). That sentiment of sacrifice for the greater good is reflected in this 1941 poem by F. R. Scott, entitled, "When I See The Falling Bombs."

When I See The Falling Bombs

When I see the falling bombs
Then I see defended homes.
Men above and men below
Die to save the good they know.

Through the wrong the bullets prove
Shows the bravery of love.
Pro and con have single stem

Half a truth dividing them.

Between the dagger and the breast
The bond is stronger than the beast.
Prison, ghetto, flag and gun
Mark the craving for the One.

Persecution's cruel mouth
Shows a twisted love of truth.
Deeper than the rack and rope
Lies the double human hope.

My good, your good, good we seek
Though we turn no other cheek.
He who slays and he who's slain
Like in purpose, like in pain.

Who shall bend to single plan
The narrow sacrifice of man?
Find the central human urge
To make a thousand roads converge?

F. R. Scott, 1941

Some of us had personal experience of these things; increasingly most of us only know of them third-hand. Yet, time and again, as these events have been commemorated this year, we have seen and heard accounts of family members who gave of themselves for the greater good in those days. A depth of pride in, and gratitude for, ordinary men and women who sacrificed extraordinarily. This next poem, "The Son," by Clifford Dymont, expresses this sense of gratitude:

The Son

I found the letter in a cardboard box,
Unfamous history. I read the words.
The ink was frail and brown, the paper dry
After so many years of being kept.
The letter was a soldier's, from the front –
Conveyed his love and disappointed hope
Of getting leave. It's cancelled now, he wrote.
My luck is at the bottom of the sea.

Outside the sun was hot; the world looked bright;
I heard a radio, and someone laughed.
I did not sing, or laugh, or love the sun,
Within the quiet room I thought of him,
My father killed, and all the other men,
Whose luck was at the bottom of the sea.

Clifford Dymant

So today we will acknowledge the sacrifice of many in both world wars and the wars which have followed – those who lost their lives, those who lost their loved ones, those whose lives were spared but changed beyond all recognition. And we pause, too, to remember and pray for those around the world today who, even at this moment, are caught up in the horrors of war. Let's pray together.

Prayers:

Father God,

We thank you for those who offered and gave their lives for our freedom.

We remember them with gratitude today.

We thank you for those who willingly went, not knowing if they would come back, and for those who came back, but came back changed.

We remember them with gratitude today.

We thank you for those who let their loved ones go, for those who cared for children and comforted them, whether their own or other peoples, for those who worked to feed the nation, or keep it safe.

We remember them with gratitude today.

We pray for those who are still caught up in the horrors of war. For those who fight to protect the needy, and for those who are caught in the crossfire of hate.

Bring them peace in their hearts and peace in their lands we pray.

We pray for those who have had to flee their homes, for those haunted by the horrors they have seen, for those seeking asylum from war.

Bring them peace in their hearts and security in their lives we pray.

We pray for those who are working for peace, especially those working in dangerous situations.

Bring them peace in their hearts and success in their efforts we pray.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Oh God Our Help In Ages Past (if needed)

Liturgy (if time)

Father God,

We find it uncomfortable to be reminded of the grim realities of war. God, who, in Christ, wields a sceptre for peace ...

Teach us, who are your image, to strive for peace.

We find it challenging to be reminded of how hateful and revengeful the human heart can become. God, who, in Christ, forgave all our sin ...

Teach us, who are your image, to forgive.

We find it humbling to be reminded of the selfless sacrifice of others for our freedom. God, who, in Christ, sacrificed yourself for your enemies ...

Teach us, who are your image, to love as we would like to be loved.

We find it inspiring to be reminded of how courage, hope and compassion can shine through in the darkest of circumstances. God who, in Christ, has definitively shone light into our dark world ...

Teach us, who are your image, to be your agents for good.

We find it comforting to be reminded that when you return all wars will cease, and all peoples will be made one. God, who, in Christ, has the final victory ...

Teach us, who are your image, to hope in your coming, and to participate in bringing heaven to earth, wherever we can, now.

In Jesus' name we ask.

Amen

[Ask people to stand for the two minutes' silence]

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.

[Two minutes' silence?]

The Last Post: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2weDBlOTgmo> to 1:22

Reading: Revelation 22:1-5, 20

Song

Oh God Our Help In Ages Past (if not used earlier) or My Troubled Soul

Reading: Mark 1:35-39

Sermon

Communion:

Through Days Of Rage And Wonder

Benediction