

All Saints' Church Thornton Hough



Service for Remembrance Sunday
8th November 2020

The Welcome

The Lord be with you.

God is our refuge and strength;

a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46.1

We join together on this Remembrance Sunday online this year.

Yet, together but apart, we continue to worship Almighty God, whose purposes are good; whose power sustains the world he has made; who loves us, though we have failed in his service; who gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world; who by his Holy Spirit leads us in his way.

As we give thanks for his great works, we remember those who have lived and died in his service and in the service of others; we pray for all who suffer through war and are in need; we ask for his help and blessing that we may do his will, and that the whole world may acknowledge him as Lord and King.

Hymn: O God our help in ages past

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home;
- 2 Under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

based on Psalm 90. Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 746.

Collect for Remembrance Sunday

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Act of Remembrance

Let us remember before God,
and commend to his sure keeping:
those who have died for their country in war;
those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure;
and all who have lived and died
in the service of humankind.

(The names of those from the parish who died in the two World Wars are read)

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.

(Here follows a time of Silence.)

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life:
Hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings
of the world;

its pride, its selfishness, its greed;
its evil divisions and hatreds.

Let us confess our share in what is wrong,
and our failure to seek and establish that peace
which God wills for his children.

Most merciful God,

***we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word, and deed.***

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

In your mercy

forgive what we have been,

help us to amend what we are,

and direct what we shall be;

that we may do justly, love mercy,

and walk humbly with you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Amos 5: 18-24

Woe to you who long

for the day of the Lord!

Why do you long for the day of the Lord?

That day will be darkness, not light.

It will be as though a man fled from a lion

only to meet a bear,

as though he entered his house

and rested his hand on the wall

only to have a snake bite him.

Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light –
pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?

'I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.
Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.
Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.
Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Anthem: Do not be afraid

(Music: Philip W. J. Stopford. Words: Gerald Markland)

Do not be afraid, do not be afraid
for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by your name;
you are mine, you are mine.

When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you;
you will never sink beneath the waves.

When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames.

Do not be afraid....

When the fear of loneliness is looming,
then remember I am at your side.

When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,
remember you are precious in my eyes.

Do not be afraid...

You are mine, O my child,

For I am your Father,

and I love you, I love you, I love you, I love you with a perfect
love, a perfect love.

Do not be afraid...

Second Reading: Matthew 25: 1-13

'At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

'At midnight the cry rang out: "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!"

'Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out."

"No," they replied, "there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves."

'But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

'Later the others also came. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us!"

'But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I don't know you."

'Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Prayers

Let us pray for the peace of the world:

for leaders of state and rulers, that they may have wisdom to know and courage to do what is right ...

for all who work to improve international relationships, that they may find the true way to reconcile people of different race, colour, and creed ...

and for men and women the world over, that they may have justice and freedom, and live in security and peace ...

Here follows a short silence.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Most gracious God and Father,

in whose will is our peace:

turn our hearts and the hearts of all to yourself,

that by the power of your Spirit

the peace which is founded on righteousness

may be established throughout the whole world;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of war:

for the injured and the disabled,

for the mentally distressed,

and for those whose faith in God and humanity has been weakened or destroyed ...

for the homeless and refugees,
for those who are hungry,
and for all who have lost their livelihood and security ...
for those who mourn their dead,
those who have lost husband or wife,
children or parents,
and especially for those who have no hope in Christ
to sustain them in their grief ...

Here follows a short silence.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Most holy God and Father,
hear our prayers for all who strive for peace
and all who fight for justice.

Help us, who today remember the cost of war,
to work for a better tomorrow;

and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict,
bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

***Our Father,
which 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.***

The Act of Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God
and our fellow men and women:
that we may help, encourage, and comfort others,
and support those working for the relief of the needy
and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

***Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves
to serve you and all mankind,
in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom;
give us courage;
give us hope;
and keep us faithful
now and always.
Amen***

Hymn: God is our strength and refuge

- 1 God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble;
and we therefore will not fear,
 though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble,
though swirling floods are raging,
 God the Lord of hosts
 is with us evermore!
- 3 Come, see the works of our maker,
learn of his deeds all-powerful:
wars will cease across the world
 when he shatters the spear!
Be still and know your creator,
uplift him in the nations —
 God the Lord of hosts
 is with us evermore!

Richard Bewes (*b.* 1934) based on Psalm 46
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The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, and all humankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

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