

## Barthol Chapel and Tarves Sunday 8 November 2020 Remembrance Sunday

### Worship Materials



#### **Praise** Psalm 23 The Lord's my shepherd (Stuart Townend)

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.

*And I will trust in You alone,  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.*

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me, and Your rod and  
staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.

#### **The Word of God:**

##### **Isaiah 25:1-9**

*250 LORD, you are my God;*

*I will exalt you, I will praise your name;  
for you have done wonderful things,  
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.*

*<sup>2</sup> For you have made the city a heap,  
the fortified city a ruin;  
the palace of aliens is a city no more,  
it will never be rebuilt.*

*<sup>3</sup> Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;  
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.*

- <sup>4</sup> *For you have been a refuge to the poor,  
a refuge to the needy in their distress,  
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.  
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,*
- <sup>5</sup> *the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,  
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;  
the song of the ruthless was stilled.*
- <sup>6</sup> *On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.*
- <sup>7</sup> *And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;*
- <sup>8</sup> *he will swallow up death for ever.  
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.*
- <sup>9</sup> *It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.*

#### **St John 15:12:17**

*'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I 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. You 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. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.*

#### **Reflection**

Most of you will be familiar with the popular TV programme "Who do you think you are". Each programme follows a different celebrity as they trace their family tree back through the generations. Some celebrities can draw a family tree that goes back for centuries. Others only manage decades. But one of the things that all the programmes have in common is the growing sense of identity and connectedness to their ancestors which the celebrity finds as they continue their search. It is a very personal way of exploring history and it shows how what happened in the past has an impact on who we are today.

In the current series I was particularly struck by the story of David Walliams. One of his great-grandfathers volunteered for service in the Grenadier Guards just weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Very soon he found himself in the trenches. The mental impact of the carnage he witnessed there was such that within months he was invalided home suffering from shell shock, what we now call post-traumatic stress disorder. After almost a year in recovery he was sent back once again to the front line, into the hell -

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holes that were the battles of the Somme and Passchendaele. Not surprisingly his shell shock recurred and this time there was no cure. He was invalided home to a military hospital where he received treatment for a year before being discharged into the care of his wife and young family. Sadly, only months later he was admitted to the local psychiatric hospital where he remained until his death in 1962.

Of course, that man was not alone in his experience. Over the years many, many men and women have come back from war, bearing physical and mental scars that last a lifetime. Others have not returned at all. This year saw the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain and we think of the many young pilots who sacrificed so much for so few in the space of a few months.

The observation of Remembrance Sunday is a bit like walking a tightrope. It is important to honour those who sacrificed so much for the sake of others. It is equally important to recognise the horror and futility of war and the reality of pain and suffering that conflict causes, pain and suffering that can last a lifetime and more. Yet at the same time Remembrance Sunday is an opportunity to hold out hope for a better future.

The book of Isaiah is a reminder, if we need one, that conflict, and the devastation which conflict brings with it, are not confined to the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century. Covering a period of over 200 years this book addresses the impact of both the invasion of the northern kingdom of Israel by the Assyrian empire and the later Babylonian conquest of Israel and Judah. These were times of great upheaval and suffering in the lives of God's people. And the voice of the prophet does not shy away from the destruction wrought by the invaders or the pain of enforced exile. But alongside the images of tragedy and destruction, the prophet always holds out hope. And today's passage is one that is full of hope.

And where is that hope to be found? According to the prophet, it is to be found in the power and the presence of God. The power of God is strong enough to still the noise of battle, to silence the song of the ruthless. And it is within the embrace of God that a battered and broken people will find refuge and shelter, healing and wholeness. The prophet then goes on to paint a picture God hosting a divine banquet of reconciliation to which all peoples are invited. God, writes Isaiah, "will destroy the shroud that is cast over all peoples". God will swallow up death for ever. And the tears will be wiped away from all faces. The grave shroud is cast aside in our hope of life beyond the power of death.

On this Sunday of all Sundays, this passage can do no other than bring us straight to the foot of the cross, where God in Christ poured out his life for the life of the world. As Christians we are brought face to face with the self-giving love of the Son of God, lifted up and drawing all people to himself as he pours out his lifeblood for the sake of the world. At the cross we see the love of God that faces up to human sinfulness and refuses to let evil and suffering and conflict have the last word. And it is this love of God that gives us a solid foundation for hope, that makes possible a new future of peace and reconciliation amongst all peoples, that opens the door to life beyond death. And like countless millions before us we must celebrate this great hope that we believe and deep down know to be true.

But if this hope is to become a reality for others, if the human cycle of conflict and tragedy is to cease then we must also learn to live out that hope. And here we turn to the words

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of Jesus himself, *“Love one another as I have loved you”* Jesus commands his followers before his death. And that command still applies to his followers today. When we commit to following Jesus, we commit ourselves to that same pattern of self-giving love that Jesus showed.

So, what does all this mean for us today? Well it must challenge us to take a stance against poverty and climate change, and the discrimination that we all practice, knowingly or unwittingly, when it comes to gender or race or colour or creed. Because these are the things that diminish life for others, and they hold within them the seeds of future conflict. We must also allow ourselves to be challenged about the ethical implications of nuclear weapons, of drone warfare, of cyberwarfare, and whether these can ever legitimately be employed in the search for peace. All of these weapons involve destruction and devastation on a grand scale and have particular implications for the weak and the vulnerable.

But perhaps right now we are in the heart of warfare of a different kind – as we wrestle coronavirus, and seek to protect an NHS under siege. How might we be strengthened and encouraged in this conflict by the example and sacrifice of those we remember today? What does the hope of resurrection life mean for you in this particular battle? How does the self-giving love of Christ inspire you to live and die today?

### **Litany for Remembrance Sunday**

Leader It is not true that this world and its people are doomed to suffer, to die and be lost.  
For this is true...

**All God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him, may not die but have eternal life.**

Leader It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction as inevitable in life. For Jesus said....

**All I have come that you might have life – life in all its fullness.**

Leader It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and war and destruction have come to stay forever.

**All For unto us a child is born, and unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, the Eternal Father, the Prince of Peace.**

Leader It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world. For Jesus said.

**All To me is given all authority in heaven and on earth, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.  
For Jesus Christ is the Light of the World  
He is the Way  
He is the Truth  
He is the Life  
He is Lord of All.**

## Pointers for Prayer

- Those who have given of themselves in the cause of peace and freedom
- The armed forces who place themselves in danger today in the cause of peace
- Those who are sad today because they are remembering loved ones lost in conflict
- Those suffering from or bereaved by the corona virus
- The NHS
- The governments in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland and their advisers
- Businesses struggling and all who are facing redundancy and financial hardship
- Family, friends and neighbours, those most affected by the current restrictions
- The United States as they vote in and await the outcome of the presidential elections.
- The people of Greece and Turkey in the aftermath of the earthquake
- The people of Vienna coming to terms with last week's terrorist attack

You might like to close your time of prayer with the Lord's prayer.

## Praise CH4 710 I have a dream

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| <p>1. "I have a dream", a man once said<br/>           "Where all is perfect peace;<br/>           Where men and women, black and white,<br/>           Stand hand in hand, and all unite<br/>           In freedom and in love".</p> <p>2. But in this world of bitter strife<br/>           The dream can often fade;<br/>           Reality seems dark as night,<br/>           We catch but glimpses of the light<br/>           Christ sheds on human-kind.</p> <p>3. Fierce persecution war and hate<br/>           Are raging everywhere;<br/>           God calls us now to pay the price<br/>           Through struggles and through sacrifice</p> | <p>Of standing for the right.</p> <p>4. So dream the dreams and sing the songs,<br/>           But never be content;<br/>           For thoughts and words don't ease the pain:<br/>           Unless there's action all is vain;<br/>           Faith proves itself in deeds.</p> <p>5. Lord, give us vision, make us strong,<br/>           Help us to do your will;<br/>           Don't let us rest until we see<br/>           Your love throughout humanity<br/>           Uniting us in peace.</p> |
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You are invited to join in the National two minute silence on your front doorstep. This will be marked by the ringing of the Church bell at the beginning and the end.

## Notices

**Next Sunday 15 November 9.45am Joint Worship on Zoom (Service commences 10.00am)** If you would like to be added to the e-mail list for the link to Sunday's live

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worship gathering on zoom or join in on your land-line please contact: Rob e-mail [sessionclerk@bartholchapel.org](mailto:sessionclerk@bartholchapel.org) or Susanna Tel 851345 or e-mail [sembichard@aol.com](mailto:sembichard@aol.com). Please note there will be a different link for this service which will be sent out earlier.

**Wednesday Worship Tarves Church 2.00pm** a short act of worship in the Church.

**Thursday 12 November Community Bible Experience 4.00pm** when we will be discussing discoveries we make on reading Ezekiel 25-48.

**Care in the Community** if you are aware of anyone in Tarves who needs help of any kind please contact Ruth 851887. If you are aware of anyone in Barthol Chapel please contact James Hepburn 806611.

**Pastoral Care** If you would like to speak to the minister please contact Alison 851295.



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