PARISH OF ESHER
Christ Church, Esher with St George's Church, West End

Remembrance Sunday Service



'Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.'

Matthew 5.9

The Gathering

All gather in a reverent and dignified manner whilst quiet organ music plays.

The presiding minister welcomes the congregation and reads one or more of the following sentences.

God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble.
Psalm 46.1

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from whence will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
Psalm 121.1-2

This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning.
Lamentations 3.21-23

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.
Isaiah 40.31

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6.8

Opening Prayer

The congregation is invited to stand.

We meet in the presence of God.

We commit ourselves to work
in penitence and faith
for reconciliation between the nations,
that all people may together
live in freedom, justice and peace.

We pray for all
who in bereavement, disability and pain
continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and acts of terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow
those whose lives,
in world wars and conflicts past and present,
have been given and taken away.

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.

Hymn

Please stand for the following hymn as the standards are presented at the altar.

For the healing of the nations

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.

Lead us forward 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.

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.

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.

Tune: PICARDY, French carol melody, harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Text: Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

Please sit.

Act of Penitence

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.

After a short silence, all say:

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
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, our God.
Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading

At the end the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem

The choir will sing an anthem.

Praying Together

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict,
and ask that God may grant peace to them and us.

To the servicemen and servicewomen
who have died in the violence of war,
each one remembered by and known to God;
may God give peace.
May God give peace.

To those who love them in death as in life,
offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;
may God give peace.
May God give peace.

To all members of the armed forces
who are in danger this day, remembering their family, friends,
and all who pray for their safe return;
may God give peace.
May God give peace.

To civilian women, children and men
whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,
calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;
may God give peace.
May God give peace.

To peacemakers and peacekeepers,
who seek to keep this world secure and free;
may God give peace.
May God give peace.

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership,
political, military and religious,
we ask that they may receive gifts of wisdom and resolve
in the search for reconciliation and harmony;
may God give peace.
May God give peace.

O 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 for ever.
Amen.

Almighty God,
stretch forth your mighty arm
to strengthen and protect the armed forces:
grant that meeting danger with courage
and all occasions with discipline and loyalty,
they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace;
to the honour of your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Our Father, who 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.

Hymn

Please stand for the following hymn.

Lord of lords and King eternal

Lord of lords and King eternal,
down the years in wondrous ways
you have blessed our land and guided,
leading us through darkest days.
For your rich and faithful mercies,
Lord, accept our thankful praise.

Speak to us and every nation,
bid our jarring discords cease;
to the starving and the homeless
bid us bring a full release;
and on all this earth's sore turmoil
breathe the healing of your peace.

Love that binds us all together
be upon the Church outpoured;
shame our pride and quell our factions,
smite them with your Spirit's sword;
till the world, our love beholding,
claims your power and calls you Lord.

Saviour, by your mighty Passion
once you turned sheer loss to gain,
wresting in your risen glory
victory from your cross and pain;
now O Saviour, dead and risen,
in us triumph, live, and reign.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell (1659-1695)
Text: Jack Copley Winslow (1882-1974)

The Sermon

Please sit.

Hymn

Please stand for the following hymn as the standards are brought to the nave platform.

Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us like them without a word
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

Tune: REPTON, Charles H H Parry (1848-1918)
Text: John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

An Act of Commitment

Please remain standing.

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 humankind,
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.

The choir may sing some short responses.

The National Anthem

The National Anthem is sung.

God save our gracious King,
long live our noble King,
God save the King.
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store
on him be pleased to pour,
long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
and ever give us cause,
to sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

Tune: NATIONAL ANTHEM, from Thesaurus Musicus c.1743
Text: Anon (c.1745)

The Blessing

God grant to the living grace,
to the departed rest,
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth and all people,
unity, peace and concord,
and to us and all God's servants,
life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Please remain standing while the clergy, choir and standard bearers process out of the church, then sit for the closing organ voluntary.

PARISH OF ESHER
Christ Church, Church Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 8QS
Telephone: 01372 462282
Email: office@esherparish.org.uk
Website: www.esherparish.org.uk

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