

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 9th November 2025

Remembrance Sunday Family Worship

Minister: Revd Neil Coulson

Organist : Mr Stephen Hogger

Hello, I hope you are well. Our worship service this morning includes our Act of Remembrance. If starting around 10.45, our service will help move us towards the two minutes silence at 11 am. If you are worshipping at home today, you may well wish to use the television or the radio to mark the silence along with many other people across the UK.

Let us worship God:

Call to worship

Gracious God,
we heard you even in the sea of disorder
and the darkness of the void,
crying, 'Light and life become!'
And all creation was begun.

We gather to praise you.

Redeeming God,
we heard you even in the sins of destruction
and the night-time of sadness,
crying, 'Enough! Here is my Son:
love and hope for the future!'

We gather to praise you.

Inspiring God,
we heard you even in the silence of sorrow
and the anguish of pain,
crying, 'If God be for us,
who can be against us!'

We gather to praise you.

R&S 705 Our God, our help in ages past

1 Our 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.

4 A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

6 Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

A Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving – The Price of Freedom

Sovereign God,
 We praise you today for the freedom we enjoy
 in this nation and as individuals –
 freedom of speech and expression,
 freedom from war and oppression –
 a freedom secured at such enormous human cost.
 For all we owe to so many,
receive our thanks.

We praise you for those who made such freedom possible,
 the countless thousands who sacrificed life and limb
 in two World Wars
 and in subsequent conflicts,
 leaving homes and loved ones, often to return no more.
 For all we owe to so many,
receive our thanks.

We praise you for all who have fought against tyranny,
 hatred and evil,
 prepared to sacrifice everything
 rather than allow such forces to hold sway;
 and we salute their courage shown in the face of danger,
 their dedication to duty,
 their determination to battle on against all odds.
 For all we owe to so many,
receive our thanks.

While we are deeply troubled by the present wars and conflicts within our world,
 we praise you for wherever there is peace that can be enjoyed today –
 a peace which we need to treasure constantly,
 nurture carefully
 and safeguard always,
 recognising the price at which it was won.
 For all we owe to so many,
receive our thanks.

We praise you for those today who fight
 for international freedom and justice,
 members of our own armed forces currently serving around the world,
 members of UN peacekeeping forces in places of continuing tension,
 striving to maintain democracy,
 to keep rival factions apart,
 to protect innocent civilians,
 and to pave the way for a lasting end to hostilities.
 For all we owe to so many,
receive our thanks.

Sovereign God,
 we praise you today for the freedom we enjoy,
 and we pray that the day will come
 when there will be no more war,
 when the nations of our world will live in harmony,
 and when you will rule over all.
 Until that time, help us to learn the lessons of the past,
 to remember its sacrifices,
 and to work as far as we are able for peace.
 For all we owe to so many,
receive our thanks.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession – Living as Peacemakers

Loving God,
 we are reminded today of how easy it is to speak of peace,
 and how difficult it is to pursue it;
 how straight forward it sounds to talk of breaking down barriers,
 yet how demanding it is to actually live as peacemakers.
 Yet we are reminded also that this is what you want us to do –
 to live in such a way that we heal wounds rather than create them,
 that we unite rather than divide, that we reconcile rather than separate.
 For our share in the world's continuing pain,
Lord, forgive us.

We confess the things within us which make for conflict,
 pride, greed, envy, intolerance, a nursing of petty grievances,
 our unwillingness to forgive,
 our preoccupation with self and our lack of time for others –
 so much that we are as guilty of as any other.
 For our share in the world's continuing pain,
Lord, forgive us.

Rescue us from all that keeps us apart,
 and put a new spirit within us –
 a spirit of love and openness,
 acceptance and understanding,
 healing and reconciliation.
 May the peace we pray for begin here and now in our hearts,
 and so may we be instruments of your peace,
 bringing healing to our broken world and harmony between nations.
 For our share in the world's continuing pain,
Lord, forgive us.

In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Remembering

Friends, let us remember in silence before God,
 all those who have died in war.

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.

The two minutes' silence

When you go home,
 tell them of us and say;
 for your tomorrow,
 we gave our today.

We pray:
 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**

The act of commitment:

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

We will

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

We will

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

We will

Merciful God,
 we offer to you the fears within us that have not yet been cast out by love.
 May we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people,
 and live lives of justice, courage and mercy;
 through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer. **Amen.**

Hymn Show me how to stand for justice

Tune Dim Ond Iesu (often used with *Here is love vast as the oceans*)

1 Show me how to stand for justice:
 how to work for what is right,
 how to challenge false assumptions,
 how to walk within the light.
 May I learn to share more freely
 in a world so full of greed,
 showing your immense compassion
 by the life I choose to lead.

2 Teach my heart to treasure mercy,
 whether given or received –
 for my need has not diminished
 since the day I first believed:
 let me seek no satisfaction
 boasting of what I have done,
 but rejoice that I am pardoned
 and accepted in your Son.

3 Gladly I embrace a lifestyle
 modelled on your living word,
 in humility submitting
 to the truth which I have heard.
 Make me conscious of your presence
 every day, in all I do:
 by your Spirit's gracious prompting
 may I learn to walk with you.

4 When the noise of war confuses,
 make your peace our steady song;
 from the wreckage of our violence
 build the world for which we long.
 Take our weapons, Lord, and change them,
 into tools that heal and feed;
 till your justice rolls like waters,
 meeting every human need.

vv.1-3 Martin E Leckebusch;
 v.4 Simon P. Woodman

Our children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing.

Old Testament Reading Job 17:23-27a**OT page 432**

²³ 'O that my words were written down!
 O that they were inscribed in a book!
²⁴ O that with an iron pen and with lead
 they were engraved on a rock for ever!

²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives,
 and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
²⁶ and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
 then in my flesh I shall see God,
²⁷ whom I shall see on my side.

Epistle Reading**2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17****NT page 191**

2 As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. ⁴ He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

¹³ But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Gospel Reading**Luke 20:27-38****NT page 78***The Question about the Resurrection*

²⁷ Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him ²⁸ and asked him a question, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; ³⁰ then the second ³¹ and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. ³² Finally the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.'

³⁴ Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶ Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.'

R&S 586 All my hope on God is founded

1 All my hope on God is founded;
 he doth still my trust renew.
 Me through change and chance he guideth,
 only good and only true.
 God unknown,
 he alone
 calls my heart to be his own.

2 Human pride and earthly glory,
 sword and crown betray our trust;
 what with care and toil is builded,
 tower and temple, fall to dust.
 But God's power
 hour by hour
 is my temple and my tower.

3 God's great goodness aye endureth,
 deep his wisdom, passing thought;
 splendour, light and life attend him,
 beauty springeth out of naught.

Evermore
 from his store
 new-born worlds rise and adore.

4 Daily doth the almighty giver
 bounteous gifts on us bestow;
 his desire our soul delighteth
 pleasure leads us where we go.
 Love doth stand
 at his hand;
 joy doth wait on his command.

5 Still from earth to God eternal
 sacrifice of praise be done,
 high above all praises praising
 for the gift of Christ his Son.
 Christ doth call
 one and all;
 ye who follow shall not fall.

Robert Bridges (1844-1930) altd.

* based on Joachim Neander (1650-80)

A Talk will be offered reflecting on today's readings

A moment for personal reflection as Stephen plays the organ

R&S 200 The kingdom of God

1 The kingdom of God
is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores
what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory
in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter
the kingdom shall grow.

2 The kingdom of God
is mercy and grace,
the prisoners are freed,
the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed
God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened
in place of despair.

3 The kingdom of God
is challenge and choice,
believe the good news,
repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners
brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement
for gain or for loss.

4 God's kingdom is come,
the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun,
in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom
shall answer his call,
and all things cry 'Glory!'
to God all in all.

Bryn A. Rees (1911-83)*
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Our prayers of intercession

Tradition. Change. These two words do not always sit comfortably together.

We pray, Living Lord, for all who you call to minister to your Church today; for all you are leading in new pioneering ways, while still adhering to the tradition of your Word. We pray that you will help fresh ideas sit alongside the old, marrying the two and thus enabling your Church to grow and flourish.

We pray for your Church worldwide. May your hand be upon those embracing faith despite the dangers of imprisonment and death.

Living Lord, we pray for your Church. Soften hearts and allow the message of salvation to be received and accepted today. Fling the arms of the Church wide open, drawing young and old alike to live, learn and grow in your Word. Free hearts, Living Lord, as only you can. Grow and strengthen your Church we pray.

We pray for all those who sacrifice their lives for you, Living Lord, and for the many who gave their lives for this country. We pray for the armed forces, their families, and all who have paid the ultimate price for peace.

Accompany those today taking aid to those in need to countries affected by war, famine, disease and extreme weather and geological events. We think in particular of Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Myanmar, Yemen, Jamaica and sub-Saharan Africa. We ask that corruption plays no part in hindering aid reaching all in need. We pray also for those you are using to smuggle bibles to people hungry for your Word in countries such as North Korea, China, and Iran.

Living Lord, we pray for your courage to strengthen those coping with adversity. May your love bring about changes in these places. We pray for peace where peace is needed: in lives torn apart by war, in families living with the consequences, and veterans still adapting. Help rebuild lives in every way, we pray.

We pray for our government and the Royal family. Traditions and controversy abound in both. But only your loving traditions of truth and justice can uphold a healthy rule. May both find fresh perspectives that sit alongside the old.

Living Lord, breathe new life and fresh vision into this nation. Guide our government and monarchy so that all lives can reflect you and your loving presence.

As the cost of living continues to bite in this country, we pray for our communities, especially for people helping those in need. We think of the people running and visiting foodbanks, and of those offering warm spaces for people to enjoy and receive a hot meal. We pray for the recent victims of knife crime and the people speaking out and attempting to eradicate such crime.

Living Lord, we pray for our communities. Bring healing where healing is needed. Help us all to reach out in your name and show your life-enhancing love to those in need. Draw us together as one in your name, we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

R&S 345 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore;
feed me now and evermore.

2 Open thou the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,

be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams, Pantycelyn (1717-91)
v. 1 tr. Peter Williams (1722-96) altd.
vv. 2-3 tr. William Williams (or John Williams, 1754-1828) altd.

A sending out prayer

In a world still torn by conflicts, send us out as makers of peace.
In a world of destruction, send us out as menders and builders.
In a world of hurt, send us out as healers.
Where worlds are ending, send us out with faith in new beginnings. **Amen.**

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 may the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Grace is shared with one another

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