



St Mary's Church
Saffron Walden
Sharing God's Love

**A Service
for
Remembrance Sunday**

Sunday 12th November 2023

After the service: on your way out of the church, you are invited to give to the Royal British Legion. If you are a taxpayer do put your gift into the envelopes provided and add your details, in order for the tax on your gift to be claimed back. This will add significantly to the value of your gift.
Thank you

The Choir sing:
Peace white dove

Dolinski

INTRODUCTION

We are here 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 God's help and blessing that we may do right and build everlasting peace.

HYMN

(during which the Standards are presented)

**Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him,
for he is thy health and salvation.
All ye who hear,
now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord,
who o'er all things so wondrously
reigneth,
shieldeth thee gently from harm,
or when fainting sustaineth:
hast thou not seen
how thy heart's wishes have been
granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord,
who doth prosper thy work and
defend thee,
surely his goodness and mercy
shall daily attend thee:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
if to the end he befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord,
O let all that is in us adore him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before him.
Let the 'Amen'
sound from his people again,
gladly for ay we adore him.**

Joachim Neander (1650-1680)
trans. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

The minister continues:
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 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

LISTENING FOR THE WORD FROM GOD

We listen to a reading from the Bible

First Reading

Amos 5 v 18-24

Read by a Member of the Armed Forces

Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God

The choir sing:

For the Fallen Irving

Second Reading

Matthew: 25: 1-13

Read by Les Dobson, President, British Legion

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took

no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God

Sermon

PRAYING TOGETHER

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace:

For the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God;
May God give peace
All God give peace

For 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
All God give peace

For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;

May God give peace
All God give peace

For 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
All God give peace

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.

May God give peace
All 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**

All join together in 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.**

**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

(during which the Standards will be returned.)

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.**

**Beneath the shadow of thy throne,
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.**

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

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
will bear us all away;
we fade and vanish, as a dream
dies at the opening day.**

**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) alt

*Please turn towards the War Memorial
at the rear of the church.*

REMEMBERING

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.

*All affirm: We will remember them.
The Last Post is sounded.*

Silence

Reveille

RESPONDING IN HOPE AND COMMITMENT

*A candle is lit by a young member of
the congregation. This represents
Christ's conquest over death; a light
which overcomes the darkness; and
gives us hope that death is not the end,
nor a final separation.*

*The Kohima Epitaph is said:
When you go home tell them of us and
say, for your tomorrow we gave our
today.*

Let us commit ourselves to
responsible living and faithful
service.

Will you strive for all that makes for
peace?

All We will

Will you seek to heal the wounds of
war?

All We will

Will you work for a just future for all
humanity?

All We will

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

HYMN

**Thine be the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son,
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.**

*Thine be the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son,
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won.*

**Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting.**

Thine be the glory

**No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of Life!
Life is naught without thee:
aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conqu'rors
through thy deathless love.
Bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above.**

Thine be the glory

'À toi la gloire' by Edmond Louis Budry
(1854- 1932)
trans. Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)

The following blessing is used:

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,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you all
and remain with you always.
Amen.

The National Anthem

**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.**

*The Parade is dismissed.
The service is ended.*

Organ Voluntary

Intrada

Ives

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