**Remembrance Worship**
**14 November 2021**
**Written by Susan Johnson**

**Psalm 46**

**1 God is our refuge and strength,**
**an ever-present help in trouble.**
**2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way**
**and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,**
**3 though its waters roar and foam**
**and the mountains quake with their surging.[c]**

**4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,**
**the holy place where the Most High dwells.**
**5 God is within her, she will not fall;**
**God will help her at break of day.**
**6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;**
**he lifts his voice, the earth melts.**

**7 The LORD Almighty is with us;**
**the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

**8 Come and see what the LORD has done,**
**the desolations he has brought on the earth.**
**9 He makes wars cease**
**to the ends of the earth.**
**He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;**
**he burns the shields[d] with fire.**
**10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am**
**God;**
**I will be exalted among the nations,**
**I will be exalted in the earth."**

**11 The LORD Almighty is with us;**
**the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

*20 Singing the Faith*
*Be still, for the presence of the Lord,*
*The holy One, is here;*
*Come bow before him now*
*With reverence and fear*
*In him no sin is found*
*We stand on holy ground.*
*Be still, for the presence of the Lord,*
*The holy One, is here.*

*Be still, for the glory of the Lord*
*Is shining all around;*
*He burns with holy fire,*
*With splendour he is crowned:*
*How awesome is the sight*
*Our radiant king of light!*
*Be still, for the glory of the Lord*
*Is shining all around.*

*Be still, for the power of the Lord*
*Is moving in this place:*
*He comes to cleanse and heal,*
*To minister his grace -*
*No work too hard for him.*
*In faith receive from him.*
*Be still, for the power of the Lord*
*Is moving in this place.*

Let us pray.

O God of truth and life, during these unusual times – with the threat of infection and increased health concerns across the globe – help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world.

On this Remembrance Sunday, as together we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life, health and hope, now and for ever. Amen.

Gracious God, In this time of reflection draw us close to you, help us to lean on you and to hand over to you all our concerns, for your love reminds us that we are not alone, that

we have your strength and guidance available to us. And so we ask that you would accept the worship of our hearts.

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen We say together the Lord's prayer.

**Our Father in heaven,**
**hallowed be your name,**
**your kingdom come,**
**your will be done,**
**on earth as in heaven.**
**Give us today our daily bread.**
**Forgive us our sins**
**as we forgive those who sin against us.**
**Lead us not into temptation**
**but deliver us from evil.**
**For the kingdom, the power,**
**and the glory are yours**
**now and for ever.**
**Amen.**

Our gospel lesson for today comes from John's gospel.

John 15:9-17 [9] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. [10] If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. [11] I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. [12] My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. [14] You are my friends if you do what I command. [15] I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. [16] You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. [17] This is my command: Love each other.

**Remembrance memories by The Revd Paul Mellor(RAF chaplain)**

'My first real memories about Remembrance come from my days in the Boys Brigade, at the War Memorial in our South Yorkshire village, on cold November mornings. As The Last Post was played, I used to look at the gathering of children and parents from the uniformed youth organisations, huddles of teary-eyed women and an ever-dwindling number of old men wearing medals. As we dutifully stood to attention for the two minutes' silence, I recall shivering and wondering: "**What am I doing here?"**

In early March 2003, just two years after joining the RAF as a chaplain, I found myself huddled with 30 to 40 others in a concrete air-raid shelter, in Kuwait. Dressed in helmet, body armour, a chemical protection suit and a respirator, as an Iraqi cruise missile landed in the camp, I recall the realisation that there were people who were trying to kill me. At that moment, I again asked God the question: **"What am I doing here?"**

Between 2006 and 2009, sadly there were more than 80 occasions when I stood on the tarmac at RAF Lyneham waiting with a family for the return of a husband, wife, son or daughter, mum or dad, who had been killed on operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. And as each family allowed me to share in the pain of one of the worst days of their life, I prayed internally**: "Lord, what am I doing here?"**

My belief is that the answer in each of those circumstances was very similar, because each indicated hope**. Hope that the cost of war and conflict would not be too easily forgotten by future generations. Hope that during times of violence and aggression there would always be people who symbolise peace and reconciliation. And, finally, hope that in the worst of circumstances life throws at us, we are not alone.'**

God of love,

At this time of Remembrance, help us to remember, now more than ever, that all people are members of your family and called to reflect your likeness and light.

We acknowledge that we find some of those qualities harder to reflect than others. As today we are mindful of times when our nations have faced division, conflict and war, we confess that Christ was not selective about those whom he chose to love, forgive and bless.

So, help us reflect who you are by echoing your love in all we do. For we are called to the costly business of being as committed to the welfare of those who call themselves our enemies as we are to the welfare of those we call our friends.

In obedience to the one who calls us to follow him as Lord, and inspired by his cross – a symbol of the greatest act of 'love for enemies' there has ever been – enable us to willingly embrace all that it stands for. Help us to stand shoulder to shoulder with those we once called enemies and call them friends, living in a way that: enables us to build bridges across seemingly impossible divides; enables us to be ministers of peace and reconciliation; and, allows light to shine in the darkest of places.

As we look at the dark and broken world around us, may we place our hope as in the prayer of Desmond Tutu: "Good is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death. Victory is ours, through him who loves us."

And empower us to face the challenges, in the midst of the many tribulations in our world that can cause hatred and division, to make our lives ones that promote goodness and love, life and light.

**Time of Remembrance**

As we approach 11.00 we look back with sorrow for each death caused by war and conflict. We remember all those who gave their lives that we might live. We also remember those who currently need our help and support.

2 minutes silence

**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.**

*722 Singing the Faith. Gareth Hill*

*When mountains that we thought secure*
*lie crumbled where we stand*
*and pain and helplessness endure*
*- all from another's hand -*
*Help us to bear the prophet's mark,*
*to stand apart from hate*
*and witness to the Father's call*
*for justice in the land.*

*God is our strength and refuge still*
*though all the earth give way;*
*our help at every time of ill,*
*the light of our dark day.*
*And as his people in the world*
*we bear the scars of grief,*
*but echo faith's resounding note*
*- and still for justice pray.*

*There is a place of holiness*
*where God makes warfare cease.*
*There is a day of hopefulness,*
*a promised time of peace.*
*So, here today, we bear the pain*
*of inhumanity,*
*but pledge our lives to live for truth*
*so justice may increase.*

**What am I doing here? Reflections**

I suspect I am not alone in remembering with Revd. Paul Mellor of times as a child standing in the cold outside a church where the Remembrance Parade was happening. Can you remember what you felt?

I can remember one day being more worried about trying to hold the flag than to think about what was being said.

What was I doing there? Showing honour and respect to those who had given their lives for others. Today we remember all those who gave their lives so that we might know peace but we are also conscious of the many who still need our help. Those who have been injured through war, with physical or mental illnesses. We also hold them before God as we ask the question how can we help them?

So, what are we doing here today? Doing the same thing I hope. But I also wonder whether we need to ask the question about our lives in general. What are we doing here? As Christian people I like to believe that we are living lives of service to others – to love others as Jesus asked us to. To show the light of love by our actions. To be the friends Jesus has called us to be to all who we meet.

And also as Revd Paul Mellor suggested to remind people, as well as ourselves that we are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

**Let us pray**
We 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 peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free; may God give peace.
**All God give peace.**

**Amen.**

The Revd Richard Smith (Army chaplain)

*465 Singing the Faith*

*Guide me, O thou great redeemer,*
*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 till I want no more;*
*Feed me till I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain*
*Whence the healing stream doth flow;*
*Let the fire and 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.*

*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.*

English Translation by Peter Williams

Blessing.
May peace surround us. May hope fill us.
May the way of love be ours as we go out into the world.
Amen

**Acknowledgement for prayers and articles from Methodist Forces Board. Resources for Remembrance 2021**