



Welcome!

We meet in the presence of God.

Peace be with you - **and also with you...**

[*You may like share peace with others if you have company and it is safe to do so*]

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.

Hymn: For all the saints... - StF 745 - we sing as members of God's family, as members of the human family, giving thanks, and praying peace.

1 For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world
confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be for ever blest:
Alleluia, alleluia!

2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress and
their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought
fight;
thou in the darkness still their one true light:
Alleluia, alleluia!

3 O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and
bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win, with them, the victor's crown of
gold!
Alleluia, alleluia!

4 O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine:
Alleluia, alleluia!

5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare
long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are
strong:
Alleluia, alleluia!

6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their
rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest:
Alleluia, alleluia!

7 But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious
day:
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of Glory passes on his way!
Alleluia, alleluia!

8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's
farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the
countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, alleluia!

William Walsham How (1823–1867)

Introduction...

Many people in our communities will have grown up before during or shortly after World War II. Though many others around us grew up later, we all will have been influenced by those around us who have been deeply scarred, mentally or physically, by what they have seen and experienced, and by loss of loved ones during both world wars and other conflicts since.

The two World Wars were supposed to have been wars to end all wars, but we know that hasn't been the case, and that the hurt, pain, maiming, loss, and destruction, has continued through many subsequent conflicts. This has happened all around the world over the span of all our lives so far - and it still goes on... you've only got to watch the news or read a newspaper...

Today we think about that and what it means to remember, and to pray for peace.

My mum came across these three poppies by chance in the garden of the STIAS Institute in Stellenbosch, South Africa a few years ago on the 100th Anniversary of World War I - 11th Nov 2018. For her they represented 3 Great Uncles - just boys - killed in WW1, two of whom have never been found. She never knew them but their loss was felt profoundly by those around her who did. You will each have your memories and family stories... from way back, or more recently...



The war memorial at Mekele in Northern Ethiopia, taken Easter time 1998 when we visited Ethiopia as a family when I was 18. This moved me because it was the first time that I had seen a memorial that recognised *all* those affected by war.

The sculptures depict not only the armed forces - but all; women, men and children, old and young, healthy and sick, and animals...



All around the monument were the scars of war in that nation - blown out tanks scattered the roadsides. Even when hostilities cease people going about their everyday lives can go on being killed or maimed by live ammunition or land mines... We pray for all victims of war.

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.

A Time to Remember - by M.BYASS...

Spend some time in quiet reflection...

You might want to remember family members killed or maimed in past wars. Or think about people today in Ukraine, Russia, Palestine, Israel, or elsewhere facing things no human should have to face... and other places - people recovering from hostilities long ago or more recent - Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Vietnam, Korea, Falklands, Iraq, Syria, Sierra Leone, Gabon, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Rwanda, and so many other places

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

You might want to think about those in dangerous environments helping the wounded, providing food and shelter, clearing up after bombing, clearing mines...

Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy.

You might want to think about those working behind the scenes to bring about peace...

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

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

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

May God give peace

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

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

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

God give peace

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

Hymn: O God our help in ages past... - StF 132 - was written by the great English hymn writer Isaac Watts in 1719. It is a paraphrase of the first five verses of psalm 90 - God who is God 'from everlasting to everlasting'.

1 O 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 The busy tribes of flesh and blood,
with all their cares and fears,
are carried downward by the flood,
and lost in following years.

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

7 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

Reading - John 15: 9-17...

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I 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. ¹⁶You 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. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Thanks be to God...

An Act of Remembrance...

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.

~~~ *Silence is kept for 2 minutes...* ~~~



***The Kohima Epitaph;***

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

***Praying for Peace - By M.BYASS...***

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

Wars have to end - an eye for an eye is not the way... it never was, it never is, it never will be. Jesus came to show us the way of love and service. We need a movement for peace starting with each one of us.

We need to be peacemakers. Wherever we are, we need a movement for peace. We ordinary people all over the world need to tell our leaders we have had enough of hatred. We want to live in peace with our neighbours and our planet. Just image a world with no war! Think how we might be able solve so many issues in our world if we didn't have to build bigger and better bombs...

I found this image of the released Israeli hostage reaching out to a Hamas leader, and her captor, a very powerful image of how peace starts with the individual - saying peace, passing peace - Shalom...



Satish Kumar's Prayer for Peace as it was written starts with us as individuals - lead me ... The seeds of peace must germinate within each of us. They will then flower naturally into the collective and the universal. Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe. From 1981 Mother Teresa encouraged people everywhere - of all faiths or none - to offer this prayer for one minute at midday every day, creating a continuous vigil around the world. Even if you were to forget to pray at noon, anytime you were to pray you would be joining others. Helping to create a chain of positive thought and prayer leading to changed hearts and minds. That is so desperately needed by our world at this perilous time...

### ***Prayer for Peace...***

**Lead me from death to life  
From falsehood to truth**

**Lead me from despair to hope  
From fear to trust**

**Lead me from hate to love  
From war to peace**

**Let peace fill our heart  
Our world our universe**



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

[ *Maybe listen to this as a song;* [https://youtu.be/5jB2np2s7n8?si=0njb\\_0FXNA1AgfYN](https://youtu.be/5jB2np2s7n8?si=0njb_0FXNA1AgfYN) ]

We say 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.**

## ***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 in 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: All my hope on God is founded... - StF 455** - Originally an English translation, by the poet Robert Bridges, of a German hymn, "Meine Hoffnung stehet feste" (my hope is firm) written around 1680 by Joachim Neander. Despite all that is; God is. God is God.

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 we fashion,  
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 nought.  
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) (alt.) based on  
Joachim Neander (1650–1680)*

*Blessing...* May God's peace be known

**May God's peace be known** as stillness within you, when you are assailed.  
**May God's peace be known** as felt in love, reaching out to hold you close.  
**May God's peace be known** as heard, in words of comfort and release.  
**May God's peace be known.**

And may the blessing of God; Father Son and Holy Spirit,  
fill you and all whom you know and love with that peace,  
now and forever more.

**AMEN.**