

Written Service Sunday 10th November 2024
A service of worship for use at home
Prepared by Catherine Smith
Remembrance Sunday

Nottingham North East
Methodist Circuit
WWW.NNEMETHODIST.ORG.UK



Charity number 1134226

We gather together today to remember, to say sorry and to pray for the future. This service offers some thoughts and readings and prayers using colour to direct our thoughts. It includes the act of remembrance. You may wish to have 4 candles to hand to light as we go through this service.

So let's be still, knowing that we are called here by God's love, that however we come, whatever burdens we carry God's love in Christ can set us free

Hymn – StF 499 Great God, your love has called us here

Great God, your love has called us here,
as we, by love for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own,
not through some merit, right or claim,
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
and find you kneeling at our feet.

We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined,
yet seeking hope for humankind.

Then take the towel and break the bread
and humble us and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.



Black

Here is black, the colour of mourning.
And so we remember those who have lost
their lives in conflicts past and present.

(note other countries have different colours of mourning)

In World War 1

8.7 million served in the British Army at some time
There were over 37 million military and civilian casualties

In World War 2

100 million people from over 30 countries were directly involved
The total estimated fatalities about 75 million fatalities, approx 20 million military, 40 million civilians (genocide, injuries, starvation)

I found it difficult to get accurate figures for the casualty rates for the current Middle East conflict, but these are figures found on the United Nations Website

41,965 Deaths
97,590 Injured
1.9million people displaced

[The United Nations and the crisis in Gaza](#)

We try to imagine what it must be like for families whose lives will never be the same again; families who wait at home anxiously, praying daily for God's protection over husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, fathers and mothers.

I invite you to light your first Candle

***This candle is black,
Like the darkness of mourning,
A symbol of despair.
We light it in remembrance of those who lost their lives,
Praying that God's light may begin to shine through the darkness.***

Act of Remembrance

We are silent

They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
In the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them

We will remember them

We are silent



Red

Here is red,
the colour of the blood.
Blood of the victims of conflicts, past and present.

JJ Chalmers is a familiar face on our televisions, presenting programmes like "The One Show" and some of the some of the biggest sporting events. He served in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, as a Royal Marine but in May 2011 he sustained severe injuries in an IED blast; he suffered facial injuries, lost two fingers and his right elbow disintegrated.

Here is part of his story in his own words.

"I became a Royal Marine Commando as I wanted to join the greatest club on earth and be part of something bigger than myself.

"After I was injured, I woke up to find my hands smashed up and my arm sewn into my stomach - I felt like I'd never walk again. I couldn't imagine going home. When I finally did, I had no idea how to live or what I could do that I'd care about as much as the Marines.

"When I was medically discharged, in 2016, I naively believed I was fixed, but it wasn't over. It never will be - I've been back for three or four significant surgeries since then and have come to realise that I essentially need maintenance - especially if want to live an active life.

"My ongoing recovery means I must depend on others and initially accepting that was hard. I was a Royal Marine Commando - one minute I was blowing off the hinges and jumping out of a helicopter, the next someone was feeding me melon in a hospital bed - not because I'm a diva, but because I literally couldn't feed myself. However, I eventually realised that, as human beings, we love helping others so it's also okay to ask for help.

"And when it comes to day-to-day support, my disability still catches me out. Looking after my kids has thrown some of the biggest challenges - mundane things like buckling them into their car seats on a cold day - my hands don't work.

"Then there's things like riding a bike, it's not as simple as hopping on a normal bike, I need adaptations that come at an additional expense – and disability is expensive."

[JJ Chalmers |TV Broadcaster, Paralympian and Royal Marine Veteran | Help For Heroes](#)

War doesn't just affect those who fight; it changes the lives of families for ever – as it will have done for JJ's family.

It can also have a devastating effect on communities, enforcing them to live in horrific conditions. We have seen harrowing pictures of refugee camps.

According to the United Nations

Over 117.3 million people were forcibly displaced at the end of 2023.

This equates to more than 1 in every 69 people on Earth.

The number of displaced people has increased every year for 12 years.

"Behind these stark and rising numbers lie countless human tragedies. That suffering must galvanize the international community to act urgently to tackle the root causes of forced displacement."

Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees

[Global Trends | UNHCR UK](#)

We remember those who have been injured, those still suffering from injuries, those whose lives will never be the same again.

We remember too the areas of the world where blood is still being shed, where conflicts continue, where there is no peace.

And so I invite you to light your second candle

***This candle is red,
Like the blood of the victim,
A symbol of persecution,
We light it in faith,
Praying for justice.***

A prayer for those affected by war

God of justice and peace,

we pray for those who have been injured or disabled through war.

For those who have lost homes and security through conflict;

for those who have lost loved relatives in wars;

for those who face danger and take risks for peace;

for all those, especially children, caught up in current conflicts;

for refugees and all those in need of aid and other help.

God of encouragement and Saviour of the despairing,

comfort those who remember past sacrifices and guide us in building a just and peaceful community for all. Amen

[chaplaincy forces remembrance 2024.pdf](#)



Green

Here is green,
the colour of creation, the colour of landscapes,
of mountain and field.

And as we give thanks for your creation we remember the landscapes destroyed by war. Farming land lost, houses destroyed, families displaced and forced to live in a different landscape of refugee camps with basic facilities, hungry and fearful of the cold as winter approaches.

But we remember that the poppies grew in those war-torn fields of Flanders, new growth, new hope, a sign of new life where thousands of lives had been lost, a sign of hope for reconciliation.

Amid the horrors of the trenches in World War 1 there was perhaps one of the most famous acts of reconciliation – The Christmas Day Truce. Whenever I read about this or see films about it I can't help but shed a tear (or two). Ordinary soldiers, men from both sides, not understanding, but in that moment reconciliation between them. They respected each other, they talked, they shared and they compromised.

Here is an account of that event as recounted in the book War Horse by Micheal Morpurgo
One soldier recalls

“On Christmas Day one of the Germans came out of the trenches and held his hand up. Our fellows immediately got out of theirs, and we met in the middle, and for the rest of the day we fraternised, exchanging food, cigarettes and souvenirs. The Germans gave us some of their sausages, and we gave them some of our stuff. The Scotsmen started the bagpipes and we had a rare old jollification. Which included some football. In which the Germans took part. We did not fire at all that day, and the Germans did not fire at us.”

We have a responsibility – where in our world can we be instigators of reconciliation?
How might we console, instead of seeking to be consoled, how might try and understand rather than be trying to be understood, how might we love, rather than seeking to be loved.

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, we come to you in sorrow and sadness,
Forgive us for the part we play in a world which is greedy for land, resources and possessions;
Forgives us when we fail to reach out with friendship and acceptance;
Forgive us when we long for status and fail to put the needs of others first;
Forgive our support of might instead of right,
Aggression instead of reconciliation.
Forgive us when we take the easy way out,
Instead of valiantly standing for truth and justice.
Amen

I invite you to light your third candle.

***This Candle is green,
like the grass in the fields,
a symbol of creation.
We light it in faith,
Praying for renewal and reconciliation.***

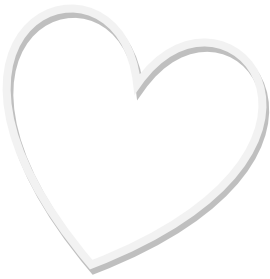
Hymn - StF 707 Make me a channel of your peace

Make me a channel of your peace:
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

*O, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life let me bring
hope;
Where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
O, Master ...

Make me a channel of your peace:
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.



White

Here is white,
the colour of purity and cleanliness,
the colour of peace.

We come to our prayers for others.

I invite you to light your fourth candle

***This candle is white,
Like the snow on the hills,
We light it in faith,
Praying for peace.***

You may wish to use this space for your own reflections, or personal prayer, or you may wish to use the prayers below.

Victims of war and keepers of peace by Nick Fawcett

Lord of all,

Hear us now as we pray for the victims of war and for peace in our world.

We pray for those across the world who bear the scars of conflict –
the injured, maimed or mentally distressed,

those who have lost their limbs, their reason or their loved ones through the horror of war

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for those left homeless or as refugees,

those who have lost their livelihoods and security,
and those who still live in daily fear for their lives.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for children who have been orphaned,

parents who mourn their children,
husbands and wives who have lost their partners –
countless families whose lives will never be the same again.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for those in the armed forces,

charged with keeping the peace in countries across the world – their work involving months
away from families and friends, and often a danger to themselves

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for world leaders and rulers, politicians and diplomats –

Those whose decisions and negotiations affect the lives of so many and in whose hands
peace ultimately lies.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Lord of all
Give wisdom to all who work for peace,
 So that a more secure future may be ensured for all.
Give courage to those who strive for justice,
 So that the causes of conflict may be overcome.
Give strength to those who strive to break down barriers,
 That divisions over race, colour, creed and culture may be ended.
Grant that wherever war, or the threat of war continues to haunt lives
 A way of reconciliation may be found, and harmony established between people and
 nations.
Lord in your mercy
 Hear our prayer
Amen

*Prayers for all Seasons Book 2 page 324
Published with permission Nick Fawcett*

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 final hymn brings all our thoughts and prayers and hopes together, but also reminds us of the part we have to play

Hymn – StF 696 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.

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 brief life's span.

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.

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.

Blessing – *we say together*

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that is meant to be.
That all may live in peace together.
Amen