



**Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on November 14th 2021, Remembrance Sunday, at 10:45, meeting once more at Bethesda Chapel.**

The lifting of lockdown restrictions has enable us to meet in person at Bethesda Chapel once again. As everyone is not yet able to return, we still plan to use our YouTube channel to broadcast a recording of the services, and will continue to provide this written service sheet. We hope and pray that you will find this outline of our service helpful, as we all seek to worship God as a Church family, wherever we are.



**We welcome everyone to our Family Remembrance Day Service (during which we will pause for the Act of Remembrance and our 2 minutes silence at 11am). A lit candle is burning on the Communion Table. Our service is led by Paul C, who begins with a**

**"Call to worship - let us pray**

*Gracious God, as we come into your presence,  
May we know a glimpse of the divine in our hearts, and minds, and whole lives.*

*Come among us, move among us now, and by the power and presence of your Spirit,  
may we know your leading and guiding as we share in worship today Amen.*

*Two weeks ago we were reminded that Jesus is the light of the world. Today as we remember some of the darkest times of our past, we also affirm that Jesus is the light of the world and his light shines in this darkness which can never put it out.*

*So light our lives today Lord Jesus as we come together in worship, prayer and praise."*

Paul continues:

**"We come together today to remember:**

**To remember with thanks those who have given their lives in service of others.**

To remember with sadness the suffering, destruction and pain caused by human conflict.

We come also to commit ourselves to be ambassadors of your peace that passes all understanding.

Help us to serve you as you deserve; to give and not count the cost, to fight and not heed the wounds, to toil and not seek for rest, to labour and not ask for reward save that of knowing we are doing your will, Lord Jesus. Amen.

**We remember the words of Jesus: In John ch 15 v 12 he says, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."**

**And we hear what Jesus continues to say in John 15: 13 "Jesus says, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."**

We come today not only to remember the sacrifices made by so many people that we might live in peace, but also recognising that the greatest sacrifice was made for us when Jesus gave his life on the cross that we might be reconciled to God. We say thank you, and have an opportunity to sing our thanks as we lift our voices together answers sing:"

**Crown him with many crowns**, noting particularly today the words in verse 4,

Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee  
and hail him as your chosen king  
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life  
who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save:  
his glories now we sing  
who died and reigns on high;  
He died eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love,  
who shows his hands and side  
those wounds yet visible above  
in beauty glorified.

No angel in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace  
his kingdom is at hand;  
from pole to pole let warfare cease  
and Christ rule every land!  
A city stands on high,  
his glory it displays,  
and there the nations 'Holy' cry  
in joyful hymns of praise.

Crown him the Lord of years,  
the potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres  
in majesty sublime:  
all hail, Redeemer, hail,  
for you have died for me;  
Thy praise shall never, never fail  
through all eternity!

Words by Matthew Bridges (1800 - 1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823 - 1903)  
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**Let us pray.** You are invited to join in with the responses in bold. **“Thank you Lord”**

On this Remembrance Day we want to thank you Lord for all who have died that we may live.

**Thank you Lord**

For all who suffered pain that we might know joy.

**Thank you Lord**

For all who had to cope with being in prison that we might know freedom.

**Thank you Lord**

For all those who willingly served in the armed services or on the home front, sacrificing what they wanted and everything they had, so that we can live in peace.

**Thank you Lord**

**Amen.**

And now let's pray for those who are currently serving in wars and conflicts. Again, we invite you to join with the responses that are in bold.

Heavenly Father, we bring before you those who are currently serving in wars and conflicts around the world.

For those facing the unknown, **give them courage.**

For those struggling with physical exhaustion, **give them strength.**

For those serving in desperate situations, **give them hope.**

For those leading others and making difficult decisions, **give them wisdom.**

and for the families left at home, **give them comfort.**

In Jesus name we pray.

**Amen**

**We say the Lord's Prayer together:**

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

**We listen to words from Micah 4 1-5, read by Becky.**

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established  
as the highest of the mountains;  
it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.

Many nations will come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob.  
He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.

They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree,  
and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken.

All the nations may walk in the name of their gods,  
but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

Paul introduces a time of **Commemoration** (as 11am approaches).

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

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.

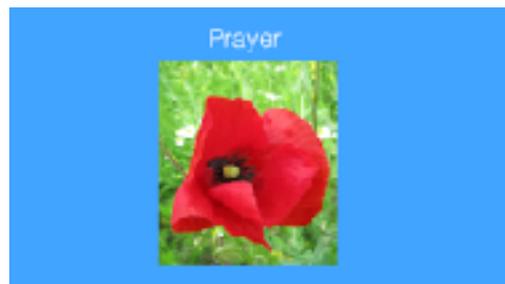
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them. - **we will remember them.**"

(The two minute silence, including the sharing of the Last Post.)

Those at Bethesda watch as an image of poppies is shown on the screen, in colour as the Last Post is played and fading to black and white during the silence, displaying the words "We will remember them". The colour is restored after 2 minutes, and the words change to show: For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable and we will be changed. 1 Corinthians 15, v 52.



Following this, a single poppy is shown on the screen as

**Paul continues:** "Many of you today will be wearing a poppy. As we pray now I invite you to use your poppy, either by detaching it or holding it where it is. If you don't have a poppy with you, please picture one in your mind. You may wish to respond, after the words, Lord in your mercy, with **Hear our prayer**

First, we hold one of the petals of the poppy. Father, the red of this petal is like the red of the blood shed by so many in the wars of this last century. We remember members of our family who were directly involved in those wars, some in the armed forces, some left behind. We remember injury, trauma, death, courage, fear - lives changed forever.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Now we take hold of another petal on our poppy. In doing so, we hold before God the violence and warfare of our own times - the simmering violence in our world today, the open hostilities and threat of terrorism. We pray, Father, that you will give us

politicians and military leaders equal to the huge tasks they face - wise in judgement, calm in spirit, makers of peace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Now we touch the centre of the poppy, the place where the seeds are kept, ready for new life. Lord, take the seeds of peace which lie in the hearts of your people everywhere, and cast them generously over every continent and nation. Let those seeds germinate, grow and flourish. Beat our swords into ploughshares, our spears into pruning hooks and our weapons of mass destruction into technologies for peace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Now we hold the green leaf (or the green stem) and remember the green and growing hope which comes from faith alone, faith in a God for whom everything is possible, even in the darkest hour. May hope guide our politics, our nation, our thinking and our lives. May hope draw us ever nearer to that day when the world shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, forgive our foolish ways, reclothe us in our rightful mind; in purer lives thy service find, in deeper reverence, praise.

In your mercy, hear us,

Amen."

We have an opportunity to sing or read the words to another song. Although sung to a familiar tune (Tell out my soul) , the words will probably be new to us all but seemed appropriate in today's context.

**Song (tune - Woodlands - tell out my soul) 'Questions'**

Lord, there are times when I have to ask : 'Why?'  
Times when catastrophe gives faith the lie.  
Innocents suffer and evil holds sway,  
grant me some answers, Lord, teach me your way.

Lord, there are times when I have to ask: 'Where?'  
Times when it seems that you simply don't care.  
Though I call out, you seem distant, aloof,  
grant me some answers, Lord, show me some proof.

Lord, there are times when I have to ask: 'What?'  
Times when your love is not easy to spot.  
What is life's purpose and what of me here?  
Grant me some answers, Lord, make your will clear.

Lord, there are times when I have to ask: 'How?'  
Times when what's preached doesn't square with life now.  
Wrestling with doubt I ask, "How can this be?"  
Grant me some answers, Lord, help me to see.

Lord, there are times when the questions run fast -  
Times when I fear that my faith may not last.  
Help me, support me, Lord, help me get through.  
Lead me through darkness till light shines anew.

Nick Fawcett/Geoffrey Nobles  
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### **Paul shares his message ; The Ultimate Sacrifice**

A reflection on war and how we should give thanks for the sacrifice of others who have given their lives for our peace and reflecting on the Ultimate Sacrifice made by Jesus on the Cross.

**"I would like to focus our thoughts this morning on one verse from**

**Psalm 46:1**

**"God is our refuge and strength A very present help in trouble"**

The ability to remember is a wonderful gift that God has given to us.

In a flash you can be a child again, skimming rocks across a pond, or walking in a meadow.

Many of us can recall the time when you fell in love, got married and had children all over again.

You can remember – because those memories that are fixed in your mind.

And time cannot rob you of those - so long as your memory continues to function.

Some of our memories are happy and we can recall wonderful experiences.

But some of our memories are sad and we may weep.

The problem, though, is that sometimes memory fails us. Sometimes we forget.

For that reason alone, I think that the Remembrance Sunday Service is one of the most important services in the Church's calendar, after Christmas and Easter.

Our mind is that unique gift that reminds us that we are made in the image of God.

Because it helps us not to forget why we have the freedom that we enjoy today.

Today we commemorate, with aid of the poppy, the Royal British Legion's 100yrs of remembrance in service to others.

This time one hundred years ago we would have been into the third year of freedom following First World War.

And it was 76 years ago that the Second World War ended.

But Remembrance Sunday It is not just a reminder of those who died in the First and Second World Wars - important as they were.

It is also a reminder of other conflicts that our armed services have been in

The Korean War

The Aden and Malayan Emergencies

The Falkland War

The Cyprus Conflict

The Northern Ireland troubles

The 1st and 2nd Gulf Wars

The Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts

And it gives us an opportunity to say "Thank you" for the sacrifice that so many made - so that we in the United Kingdom can enjoy peace

It is appropriate too to come to a Christian Church to hold a service of Remembrance because the Church building should remind us of the greatest sacrifice of all.

For in the New Testament we read of the story of God sending his own Son Jesus into the world to bring mankind back into a right relationship with God. And to do so Jesus made the Ultimate Sacrifice on our behalf on the Cross. It is the sacrifice that we recall every Easter.

For it is more than simply the remembering of the life of a good man

But rather through it, we are reminded how GOD wants us to live

The rules that God has given us for living - are not rules to curtail our enjoyment of life.

Quite the contrary – they are given – as Jesus

said: so that we may have life and life in abundance (Jn 10:10)

Try and imagine playing a game of football with no rules. It would be chaos!

So it is with us when we fail to remember the rules of life that God has given us.

Jesus gave us two great rules to govern life in our society, The first was this.

To "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind (Mt 22:37)

The second was to "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mt 22:39)

Let us go from this Remembrance Day service resolved to make anew these commands the goal of our lives.

The American poet George Santayana, once said

"Those who do not learn from history - are doomed to repeat it."

In war many people found their faith – others lost it.

Other have become an inspiration to us

One such person was Edith Cavell, who was executed just over 106 years ago on 12th October 1915.

Edith Cavell was a 49 year old nurse, the daughter of a Norfolk vicar, who had lived and worked in Brussels for eight years.

Her early career had been as a governess but having qualified as a nurse she soon rose to prominence not only as a most capable and humane practitioner but as a person with great organisational and leadership abilities.

A follower of Florence Nightingale, Edith accepted an invitation from the Belgians in 1907 to run a training hospital and she set about establishing a new standard of nursing, and a professional class of dedicated nurses, in a country where that occupation had been the preserve of nuns.

In August of 1914 she was holidaying with her mother on the Norfolk coast when war was declared and in spite of the protestations of her family she insisted on returning to her post.

That was typical of her devotion to duty, a quality most evident in the months following when Edith and her staff worked ceaselessly to save the lives of all wounded soldiers, allied and German alike.

She also involved herself in a dangerous endeavour to smuggle wounded British soldiers across the border into neutral Holland and it was this that was her undoing. The Germans became suspicious and taking full advantage of Edith's naiveté told her, quite falsely, that two of her colleagues had confessed.

At that point she did too, and in July 1915 was found guilty of treason under the German penal code.

Stirling Gahan was one of one of the Chaplains in Brussels at the time of Edith Cavell's execution.

And it is from Stirling Gahan that we have an account of Edith Cavell's last days. He wrote this:

On Monday evening, October 11th, I was admitted by special passport from the German authorities to the prison of St. Gilles, where Miss Edith Cavell had been confined for ten weeks.

The final sentence had been given early that afternoon.

To my astonishment and relief I found my friend perfectly calm and resigned.

But this could not lessen the tenderness and intensity of feeling on either part during that last interview of almost an hour.

Her first words to me were not upon a matter concerning herself personally, but the solemn asseveration which accompanied them was made expressly in the light of God and eternity.

She then added that she wished all her friends to know that she willingly gave her life for her country, and said: "I have no fear nor shrinking;

I have seen death so often that it is not strange or fearful to me."

She further said: "I thank God for this ten weeks' of quiet before the end."

"Life has always been hurried and full of difficulty."

"This time of rest has been a great mercy."

"They have all been very kind to me here.

But this I would say, standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough.

I must have no hatred or bitterness towards any one."

We partook of the Holy Communion together, and she received the Gospel message of consolation with all her heart.

At the close of the little service I began to repeat the words, "Abide with me," and she joined softly in the end.

We sat quietly talking until it was time for me to go.

She gave me parting messages for relations and friends.

She spoke of her soul's needs at the moment and she received the assurance of God's Word as only the Christian can do.

Then I said "Good-bye," and she smiled and said, "We shall meet again."

The German military chaplain was with her at the end and afterwards gave her Christian burial.

He told me: "She was brave and bright to the last.

She professed her Christian faith and that she was glad to die for her country." "She died like a heroine."

(These words come from the Source Records of the Great War, Vol. III, ed. Charles F. Horne, National Alumni 1923)

War can bring the worst out in people but it can also bring the best out of them too.

TODAY let us give thanks to God for the sacrifices THEY all made that has enabled us to come here today in PEACE.

This all begs the question, in Remembering today what difference will it make to our lives?

In 1914 at the beginning of the first world war, there was an iconic recruitment poster of Lord Kitchener (Secretary of State for War) pointing a finger at you saying? - 'Your Country Needs You'. And as we now know the response was overwhelming. The sacrifice was incalculable.

It has been said that our government's call for action against conflict today would not receive the same response. And yet where the lives of our citizens were at stake 2 years ago and government called for a lock-down, the practical response has been sacrificial and life changing.

Let me tell you friends, today is no different. Remember we are still living in a time of conflict. It is still a world war of life and death proportions, one that has existed since the beginning of time. One where the enemy of mankind seeks domination and ultimate power. This enemy's propaganda would seek to overwhelm and consume all people with its false promises of a better life away from our loving Heavenly Father.

God's word says, our ultimate battles are not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Our reading from Micah 4 tells us clearly, that God will ultimately be the judge of all, settle all nations disputes and will transform weapons of war into tools for agriculture & cultivation.

Mankind was born into Gods kingdom on earth, and although we have all wondered away. Micah says -Today as in every day God is calling us home to his kingdom to practically teach us his ways again.

Will we respond to the poster 'your country needs you'. He points the finger directly at you. Are you challenged? And will you welcome him as he welcomes you home?

Never let us forget the peace that passes all understanding that can only come through the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour of our eternal kingdom Amen"

#### **Victor leads us in our Prayers for the world:**

Lord, where neighbour is set against neighbour, please bring peace.

**We will remember them as we pray**

Where the weak and helpless are beaten by the mighty, please bring justice.

**We will remember them as we pray**

Where children are forced to fight, please bring them freedom.

**We will remember them as we pray**

Where hatred means that war and revenge continues, please bring forgiveness.

**We will remember them as we pray**

Where people depend on their own strengths and beliefs rather than depending on you, please bring humility.

**We will remember them as we pray**

We remember these countries, these people, these places as we pray to you, Jesus, Prince of peace, for peace throughout the world. Amen.

Ever living God, we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence, calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish our name among the nations through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In Jesus' name we have prayed, Amen.

#### **Paul draws our time together towards a conclusion:**

We have been remembering this morning those who have made the greatest sacrifice of all, sacrificing their lives in wars for our freedom,

As we come to the end of the service let's recommit ourselves to loving one another, which results in peace amongst us, rather than conflict, knowing we can turn to Jesus who alone has the power to **CHANGE** us.

**We sing a song about change:**

**Song: Lord I come to you:**

Lord I come to You,  
let my heart be changed, renewed,  
flowing from the grace  
that I've found in You.

Lord I've come to know  
the weaknesses I see in me  
will be stripped away  
by the power of Your love.

Hold me close, let Your love surround me,  
bring me near, draw me to Your side;  
and as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle,  
and I will soar with You, Your Spirit leads me on  
in the power of Your love.

Lord unveil my eyes,  
let me see You face to face,  
the knowledge of Your love  
as You live in me.

Lord renew my mind  
as Your will unfolds in my life  
in living every day  
by the power of Your love.

Hold me close.....

Songwriters: Geoff Bullock

The Power of Your Love lyrics © Universal Music Publishing Group, Music Services, Inc  
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**Paul brings our worship to a close as he shares a Benediction:**

"Lord Jesus, today we commit ourselves to:  
choosing love over hate,  
choosing service over selfishness,  
choosing sharing over greed,  
and choosing peace-making over trouble making,  
For the glory and honour of your name. Amen.

## **Blessing**

May the God who mourns with his people, the Son who sacrificed his own life that we might experience the depths of God's love and the Holy Spirit whose presence of peace never leaves us, bless us all today, tomorrow and forever. Amen."

**Gillian and Douglas would like to thank the BBC family for the valued friendship and loving support extended to their Mother, Peggy Simmen, over the last 63 years and especially towards the end of her life and at her funeral. Donations to Global Charities, otherwise known as Make Some Noise, which supports small charities helping disadvantaged people across the UK, currently stand at £555. Gillian and Douglas would like to thank you for your kind generosity and your prayers at this sad and difficult time.**



**There will be a Church Members Meeting this coming Tuesday, November 16th, here in the Chapel, at 7.30pm**

