



LEST WE FORGET

A SERVICE FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

What does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?
- Micah 6.8 -

MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOU PEACE

Singing the Faith #707



OPENING PRAYER

God, it's difficult to see the point of wearing a poppy,
or what difference two minutes' silence will make
when we could be shouting protests.
But we can recognise a broken life being valued,
a gift being given,
and taking two minutes to reflect on how much we have.
We look to the future, not to the past.
We cannot change what has been
but do not need to repeat its mistakes.
So as old and young come together before you,
take the very best of our lives;
bind us into one people of faith
and help us to share our common values,
love of Jesus and care for each other;
to build dreams,
and, with your Holy Spirit,
turn them into reality.
Amen.

Source: Rootsontheweb



JOSHUA 24:1-3A, 14-25 (NIV)

Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants.

"Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God."

Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you."

But the people said to Joshua, "No! We will serve the Lord." Then Joshua said, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord." "Yes, we are witnesses," they replied.

"Now then," said Joshua, "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the Lord our God and obey him." On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws.



LEST WE FORGET - SERMON NOTES

From Rev. Adam

Introduction: In Remembrance, we are reminded as a people the true source of our success as a people through those who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty in the two world wars. We honour those men and women who incredibly worked hard to bring peace in the world. "We shall always remember them"

The concept of 'being careful not to forget' is expressed in the passage we read from Joshua.

Joshua's farewell to the nation. He called all the Israelites to Shechem to hear his final words. Joshua challenged the people to make a conscious choice to always serve God. He is summoning Israel to renew their Covenant with God.

Be careful not to forget what God has done for you (vs2a) Joshua reminds them about the promise of God to Abraham- land and posterity, descendants. This came to be fulfilled.

Making right choices- The people had to make a choice between obeying God who had proved his trustworthiness or obeying the local gods which were only man-made idols. Regardless of what others think, Joshua makes a commitment to God and he was going to set an example for others. Vs15. "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord".

Today we are faced with the challenge to choose between worshipping God and following our own instincts (secular world- God removed from the centre of life, guided by science and technology...).

The people's commitment (vs21)- "We will serve the Lord"

They acknowledge God for delivering them out of slavery, for his guidance, protection, and provision during the desert life years- pillar of cloud by daytime, fire by night (GOD'S PRESENCE).

Getting rid of those things that oppose peace- Joshua summons the Israelites to throw away their foreign gods Vs 23. - To follow God requires destroying whatever gets in the way of worshipping him. We should destroy greed, jealousies, hatred, and prejudice- as these can be obstacles in our way to worship God/ hinder healthy relationship between us and God.

The same elements have been, sadly, the cause for division and wars in today's world. We see in some nations a repeat of the mistakes of the past- civil unrest and terrorist attacks world-wide.

Let us strive for peace and justice for our communities as we seek to serve God in faithfulness. We want to remember all who are anxious at this time, and pray that we may all understand that it is trust and hope in God and our neighbours — not discrimination and prejudice — which are the key to achieving peace." Amen.

BE STILL FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

Singing the Faith #20



TWO MINUTES SILENCE

Spend two minutes thinking about and remembering all those who have lost their lives in conflict.

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.



PRAYERS FOR PEACE

We remember times when we have fought and argued,
with our families and friends, at home and in the playground.
We pray for peace.

We remember the wars fought in the past
and the sacrifice of those who gave up their lives to give us
peace.
We pray for peace.

We remember all places where there is still fighting and trouble
and the people who suffer because of it.
We pray for peace.

We pray that we will be patient and tolerant of all people
and commit ourselves to work for peace
in our lives, our homes, our schools, our communities and our
world.
We pray for peace.
Amen.

PRAYERS IN A TIME OF HOPELESSNESS

We entrust to you, eternal God,
those times when we can see only shadows
and lose sight of the hope to come;
the times when suffering seems so senseless,
life so fragile, war so unstoppable and death so permanent.
Bless us with the assurance that you are in all things,
the tragic and the beautiful,
the nightmare and the dream,
the light and the darkness.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ
the peace of the world, today, tomorrow and forever.
Amen.

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.



FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

Singing the Faith #696



BLESSING

We have been gathered in by you, God,
the source of all wisdom and wonder.
In your infinite kindness, you show goodness to all.
May we, who have been nurtured by your consolation and welcome,
share consolation and welcome with all we meet,
knowing that from your great goodness,
all goodnesses flow.
Amen.

