

Worship for Remembrance Sunday (complete text. A video version is also online) Keep safe. Keep caring. Keep praying.

Welcome: to worship for Sunday 8th November Remembrance Sunday. We are grateful to Russell Blackwell for his reflection and the opening prayers, Gail Bullivant for the hymns, Rev Barbara Greenwood and Rev Dr Iain Ballard for the readings, Catherine Evans-Routley for the intercessions and final prayers. Thanks to Trevor Pethick for recording parts of this service on behalf of others and Tim Pearson for the technical help and support .If you would like to take part, then please get in touch with the Circuit Office on swc.katetennyson@gmail.com

THE PREPARATION

Call to worship

Let us come before the Lord with humble hearts ready to hear His voice in our lives.

Hymn StF 41 Blessed be your Name

**1 . Blessèd be your name
in the land that is plentiful,
where your streams of abundance flow,
blessèd be your name.
And blessèd be your name
when I'm found in the desert place
though I walk through the wilderness
blessèd be your name**

**Every blessing you pour out
I'll turn back to praise.
And when the darkness closes in, Lord,
still I will say
*Blessèd be the name of the Lord,
Blessèd be your name.
Blessèd be the name of the Lord
Blessèd be your glorious name.***

**2. Blessèd be your name
when the sun's shining down on me
when the world's 'all as it should be'
blessèd be your name.
And blessèd be your name
on the road marked with suffering,
though there's pain in the offering,
blessèd be your name.**

**Every blessing you pour out
I'll turn back to praise.**

And when the darkness closes in, Lord,
still I will say:

*Blessèd be the name of the Lord,
Blessèd be your name.
Blessèd be the name of the Lord
Blessèd be your glorious name*

You give and take away,
you give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
'Lord, blessed be your name.'

*Blessèd be the name of the Lord,
Blessèd be your name.
Blessèd be the name of the Lord
Blessèd be your glorious name.*

Matt Redman (b. 1974) and Beth Redman

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Prayer of approach

God of consolation, in all the stories of our lives, you are with us.
As we turn to each other and turn to you,
May we give and find all the comfort we need,
Knowing that it is in such shelter, that we hear the echoes of your great kindness.
Amen

Prayer of adoration

O God, Father of each one of us, you are beyond comparison,
We praise and adore you.
Your love is unending, your mercy limitless,
Your power infinite, your grace unbounded.
You alone give life its full and true direction;
You bring good out of evil, life out of death, and hope out of despair.
We are amazed that you continue to concern yourself with us,
despite our deep and constant unworthiness of you.
Faithful, gracious Father,
We offer you our praise and adoration with reverent, humble and thankful hearts.
Amen

Prayer of confession

God of grace, our own human history condemns us,
Making plain our sinfulness.
We are unable to live together in harmony;
Our self-assertion, greed, ignorance and prejudice
Ensure that peace is always short-lived.
We let pride and patriotism blind and deafen us
While justice and mercy go unheeded.
We abuse your gift of knowledge:
We do not use our technology for good,
So often choosing destructive and inhuman courses instead.
Even within your church, we have failed to live out the Gospel of peace,

Failed to show people their true worth
Failed by our unfaithfulness in praying for the world,
Failed by accepting injustice and so increasing tension.
Lord we need your forgiveness.
Despite the immensity of our sin, set us free from it;
And may the knowledge of your constant forgiving grace
Result in our striving for peace
And actively seeking the good of all.
We ask these prayers for Christ's sake.
Amen

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

1st Reading 1 Kings 17:7-16 (NRSVA)

⁷But after a while the wadi dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

The Widow of Zarephath

⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ⁹'Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.' ¹⁰So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, 'Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.' ¹¹As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, 'Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.' ¹²But she said, 'As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.' ¹³Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.' ¹⁵She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

Psalms 104:24-30(NRSVA)

²⁴ O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
²⁵ Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.
²⁶ There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.
²⁷ These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
²⁸ when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
²⁹ When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.

30 When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.

Gospel John 21: 1-14 (NRSVA)

21After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' ⁶He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

9 When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Sermon

"Come and have breakfast" John 21.12

Not many people would have recognised this quiet man. In later years he would drive down to the supermarket from his small house in Pinehurst, North Carolina, load up with a nod from some people and a word from others and head home. But the traffic cop would give him a salute.

Yet this man gave generous practical help to millions of hungry people after a world crisis. General George Catlett Marshall gave his name to the aid plan which re-established Western Europe after the Second World War. Ernest Bevin described it as 'A lifeline to a sinking man'.

The disciples did not recognise Jesus as the man standing on the lakeside. Was it the early morning mist or smoke from a fire which obscured him? But they could hear his invitation. "Come and have breakfast".

Do you like breakfast? I've always been a 'go to work on an egg' man with cereals - and bacon too until recently. Sets you up for the day. However I've never been a night shift worker, tired and super hungry.

The fishermen had toiled all night. They were doubtless shattered and ravenous; absolutely ready for breakfast. And at the last moment after this man had thrown 'a lifeline to sinking hearts', they had a huge haul of fish to heave on board.

All they had been doing was to try to get back to normal. Back to the family in Galilee. Back to the old days of work, after an unexpected crisis when their leader was crucified and they were locked up afraid in Jerusalem. So they went back to fishing. We might say back to the factory, shop, office, restaurant – whatever the job was. You know the feeling after lock-down? Except that nothing was going to plan. Even the fish were being awkward. Surely they were down hearted? You know that too?

Now Jesus appears and knows their needs – and responds.

First he guides them to a successful outcome from their labours: a catch to meet the needs of their families, and the whole village.

Then secondly, nourishment for themselves. Did they lick their lips as they spotted the choicest fish in the net? How hungry they must have felt as they staggered ashore, smelling cooking fish and seeing bread.

Peter may have remembered the time that Jesus and he went to Jairus' house where his daughter had died. After Jesus had commanded her back to life, she got up at once and started walking around – just as a twelve year old would, wouldn't they? And Jesus had spotted her need, her hunger after the lock-down of death. His response then? "Give her something to eat." Now it was food for Peter himself.

Not least, thirdly, Jesus knows the need of Peter and the disciples for encouragement. These men may well have been asking "how long?" They thought that they had met the risen Jesus but he kept disappearing. Now he is with them again and their hearts are lifted. They know for sure it is him.

Christ knows our needs now: needs for reassurance and strength. Here's the good news. Before we recognise him, his grace comes to each one of us. We affirm during the baptism of young children:

'For you Jesus Christ lived, showed God's love and triumphed over death;

For you he prays at God's right hand:

All this for you, before you could know anything of it'

Our Old Testament reading today told of a despairing widow, preparing for a final Brunch. However she makes a leap of faith about her store of flour and oil, which prove to be sufficient for her family and Elijah.

The Iguaza Falls in Argentina are the largest in South America. Yet behind this immense sheet of water Great Dusky Swifts have their nests. When the chicks are grown, the only way that they can take to the skies to have life is right through the waterfall. They have

to make a flight of faith to get their first breakfasts, so to speak, in a world which they have not known previously.

There are times when we have to make a leap of faith to receive that all-sufficiency that God offers. To get the Full-English (or Scottish) breakfast for the time ahead. Times like now, perhaps, when it is so difficult to foresee the next year. But take heart. Christ knows our needs and he will shower us with the blessings we require. We shall find spiritual nourishment coming to us in fresh ways as we worship differently.

Paul found God's grace flowing when life seemed bleak. He wrote: 'The Lord said to me, "My grace is sufficient".'

Sufficient for the disciples. Sufficient for Paul. Sufficient for us. Grace enough for all. Christ's call is to us as well as the disciples: "Come - and have breakfast".

But it wasn't the end of that breakfast story was it.

Jesus was cooking a meal. It is the only occasion when we are told of him himself catering, though perhaps he helped his mother as a child. On other occasions it was others catering. The story of Martha slaving for Jesus' group in the Bethany kitchen is well known. When Jairus' daughter was raised, her father and mother were asked to get her some food.

Now it is Peter's turn to help. "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." And after they had eaten, Jesus says "Feed my lambs; feed my sheep". Peter is invited to share in Jesus' ministry .

What about us? Jesus seeks our help too. What food are we sharing? And I do not mean just the bread and wine of communion, though that is important. At this time of national challenge by the Coronavirus there is scope for sharing both physical food and food for our Christian relationships.

We know that more people are turning to food banks as their income is reduced or the children are unable to get school meals. In the UK over 4 million people know the reality of hunger. At the same time gifts of food have become more awkward to pass on to the banks. Jesus responded to hungry people.

As for food for our souls, we have new opportunities through the internet to add to previous ways of sharing. Websites for worship, group meetings on line and social media chat all add to the older ways of telephoning, texting, writing or speaking at a 'social distance'. And by no means least, praying. In whatever way we can, Christ wants us to share in the distribution of his loving care – his food. So we are called to work with both food banks and the like and with spiritual food for struggling people. He delights in using us to share God's love.

Are you feeling like those disciples did: excluded from normality, or locked down from human contact, or discontented and hungry? Perhaps with sad memories this Remembrance Day. I want to share this good news with you.

God knows our deepest feelings and responds enabling his grace to envelope us. His love and grace are sufficient to strengthen hearts and minds whatever our situation.

But He knows our bodily needs too. Through Christ, he inspires our hands to share with one another our 'fish' of food and friendship so that his sheep may not be hungry.

Jesus came so that we might have life and have it to the full. Each of us is invited: "Come and have breakfast".

Let us share this meal with one another, so that all may live the coming days in His grace.
Amen

Affirmation of Faith:

Let us confess together the faith of the Church.

We believe in God the Father,
who made the world.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son,
who redeemed humankind.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God.

Hymn: StF 36 There's a quiet understanding

**1. There's a quiet understanding
when we're gathered in the Spirit,
it's a promise that he gives us,
When we gather in his name.
There's a love we feel in Jesus,
there's a manna that he feeds us,
it's a promise that he gives us,
When we gather in his name.**

**2 And we know when we're together,
sharing love and understanding,
That our brothers and our sisters
feel the oneness that he brings.
Thank you, thank you, thank you, Jesus,
for the way you love and feed us,
for the many ways you lead us;
thank you, thank you, Lord
thank you, thank you, Lord.**

Tedd Smith (b.1927)

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THE RESPONSE

Prayer of thanksgiving

We offer to God our thanksgiving for the many blessings with which he has enriched our lives. And especially this day we thank you for those who displayed such courage in all the horror of war- those who fought so bravely, who served so faithfully, and sacrificed so greatly for the cause they believed in. Thanks be to God. Amen

Hymn Stf 322 How Sweet the name of Jesus Sounds

1. **How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.**
2. **It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.**
3. **Dear name – the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace!**
4. **Jesus! My Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
Accept the praise I bring.**
5. **Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.**
6. **Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death.**

John Newton (1725-1807)

Music: Alexander Robert Reinagle (1799-1807)

Prayers of intercession

Let us pray:

Living God, we come this day to remember the awful cost of war and conflict,
To remember the millions who gave their lives in the cause of freedom
To remember the heroism and courage, fear and pain, tragedy and grief of so many.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them

Living God, we remember all of this and more,
Those who mourn the loved ones they lost
Those whose lives are blighted today by the conflicts of the past
Those who are scarred in body mind or spirit
Those for whom life can never be the same
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them

Living God, we pray for all those who strive for peace,
Governments and world leaders,
Peacekeeping forces, reconciliation organisations,
Ordinary people who see each other as neighbours,
All who strive to see an world living in harmony,
Turning swords into ploughshares
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Living God, you want only the best for your children.
We come before you in our need and ask 'Your will be done'
We commit ourselves and all those who have asked for prayer to your everlasting love
Help us to work for our Kingdom here on earth.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them,
In the name of Christ
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

We say 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 our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours, now and forever
Amen

The Offering & prayer

Loving God, there are many ways in which
we can use our money, energy and time ;
our talents and our abilities to love ;
but we offer them all to you.
Please accept our willing gifts, and bless them
and help us to use them wisely for your kingdom.
In the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Hymn StF 103 God is Love: let heaven adore him

1. **God is Love: let heaven adore him;
God is Love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above
he who breathes through all creation
he is Love, eternal Love.**

2. **God is Love: and he, enfolding
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding
Every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find the selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.**

3. **God is Love: and though with blindness
sin afflicts each human soul,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides and keeps them whole.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain:
God is Love, so love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.**

Timothy Rees (1874-1939) (*alt*)

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Prayer & blessing

May the living God give us peace to calm our fears,
justice to all peoples,
and harmony among the nations.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

May the Lord bless us and keep us
and make his face shine upon us
and all who we love .
Amen

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