

Sunday 8th November 2020 – Bulwell United Reformed Church

This Sunday is **Remembrance Day** and I have used John 15: 9-7 as the reading for a Remembrance service. *A short service for personal communion focusing on confessing Jesus is Lord is included. Please have your bread & wine/juice ready.*

Call to worship

I lift up my eyes to the hills –
from where will my help come?

**My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

Psalm 121.1-2



Opening prayer

O God, you are almighty and everlasting,
yet compassionate and ever-loving;
be with us as we gather before you today
to remember those we have loved, those we admire,
those we have never known whose sacrifice ensured that we enjoy freedom
from tyranny and fear.

Amen .

A prayer of confession

Heavenly Father,
as we look at (or hear) the names on these memorials
we realise how quickly and easily we forget.
We forget who people were and what they did,
we forget the contributions they made
and what they meant to their families.

We confess that sometimes we forget you
and what you have done for us.
Forgive us for those times,
and help us to see you in the lives of all we love,
those we remember
and in the beauty of the world around us.

**Forgive our past doings
so that we may praise you for all
you have done for us.**

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.



Our Father

Song 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) - Celtic Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mwtxuiYfY8>

John 15: 9-17 – Love one another

⁹ ‘As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.

¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: love each other. (NIVUK)

Remembrance – Love and Hope

When we look at the world around us we can see the beauty of it. At this time the colours of Autumn can give spectacular scenes and inspire us to see the hand of God as creator.

But, unfortunately we know that there is another side and the problems stem from sin – pride, greed, evil and lust for power can lead to war and that is what we think about today. For example, World War One – the affairs of politics; World War Two – evil; Falklands – land & sovereignty and the Gulf wars – perceived threat to our security. Lives are lost – on the first day of the Battle of the Somme alone, the British lost 57,000 soldiers.

The Bible passage we have read today is about life. What we believe to be important and what we are to stand for and even die for.

God’s answer is agape love – a self-sacrificing love of the quality shown by Jesus himself. The love of God impacts the world to bring a change in people’s hearts. It has to start here. Jesus gave his life for the sin of humankind, expressed in verse 13 as, ‘he gave his life for his friends.’ There is a relationship change with Jesus, sin is dealt with and we are saved & free.

Our relationship with Jesus influences our lifestyle, actions, values and choices. As Philippians 2: 3-4 puts it, *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests but also to the interests of others.”* An expression of this is the serve and give of ourselves on behalf of others. The implication from John 15 is that my life is precious and and I might have to give it for the sake of others but not in a futile or senseless way. That is why we remember the past ... to give meaning to the present and ... hope for the future.

We reflect so that we can learn lessons and better prepare for the future. But do we with regard to war? – the problem is human nature and an unredeemed heart. That is why we need faith and a relationship with Jesus Christ. This is God’s answer and although it might seem like a long and slow process - to see changes in people’s hearts - it nevertheless is our mission.

Jesus sets us free to do this – we have a gospel of love and hope to share. It is a powerful gospel and it has a complete answer. God is our Good Shepherd. Jesus is our friend. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter to draw upon in times of loss and bereavement and who brings us healing and peace.

Today we remember past conflicts and loss and trauma but we have hope and can offer hope - *“the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you.”* (Colossians 1:5). This is certain hope and it sustains us now and in the future. It allows us to get a perspective on the here and now, realising what is really important and being assured that God is with us. Hope should stir us in the way to act towards world events, in our relationships and the impact we have on others.

There is not a lot of hope for the world without God but there is a great deal to look forward to with God. We live in a world where many see death as the worst thing that can happen to a person. But Christian hope goes beyond death to the promised resurrection that Jesus Christ promised to all who believed in him.

Remembrance Day – The Last Post

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4NtSqZcT_4

Prayers of intercession

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of war:
for the injured and the disabled, for the mentally distressed,
and for those whose faith in God and in humankind has been weakened or destroyed . . .
for the homeless and refugees, for those who are hungry,
and for all those who have lost their livelihood and security . . .
for those who mourn their dead,

those who have lost husband or wife, children or parents, and especially those who have no hope in Christ to sustain them in their grief . . .

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, infinite in wisdom, love and power:
have compassion on those for whom we pray; and help us to use all
suffering in the cause of your kingdom, through him who gave himself
for us on the cross, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen**

Song Before the throne of God above (feat. Kirsten Getty)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LULK2nZ6sCc>

HOLY COMMUNION Thanksgiving:

**God is with us!
We give thanks and praise to God!**



Loving God, the world you made is beautiful and full of wonder.
You made us, with all your creatures, and you love all that you have made.
You gave us the words of your prophets, the stories of your people through the generations,
and the gathered wisdom of many years.
You gave us Jesus, your Son, to be born and to grow up in difficult times when there was
little peace. He embraced people with your love and told stories to change us all.

He healed those in pain and brought to life those who had lost hope.
He made friends with anyone who would listen and loved even his enemies.
For these things, he suffered. For these things, he died.
And he was raised from death and lives with you forever.
You give us your Holy Spirit, to teach and to strengthen us, to remind us of Jesus Christ,
and to make us one in him.

For all these gifts we thank you, and we join with all your people on earth and in heaven,
in joyful praise:

Hosanna!

The Sharing of the Bread and the Wine

We give thanks to you, O God, that you cause the vine to yield fruit.
We bless you for Christ, the true vine, whose blood was poured out for us.
By your Holy Spirit sanctify us and this wine, that the cup which we bless may be to us the
communion of the blood of Christ, and that through abiding in him we may bear fruit that
shall last.

Eat this bread. It is the bread of life.

Drink this wine. It is the cup of blessing.

Prayer after Communion

God of a love stronger than death, you have given us new birth into a living hope
through the gift of your Son.
God with us, you have fed us with yourself and strengthened us for journeying ahead.
God of truth and power, you take our weakness and our sin and refashion us by grace.
Gracious God, may the love which bids us welcome at this table gather all your children into
one, in your eternal presence, whole and free at last. **Amen**

Sending out prayer

Go in peace.

We go in peace.

Work for peace.

We will work for peace.

May peace fill your lives,
your hearts and your homes.

Amen .



