

Rebuilding Hope and Confidence - Remembrance

Hymn: O God, our help in ages past

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Sung by the Choral Scholars of St Martin in the Fields

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of thy throne,
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in thy sight,
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night,
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come;
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Bidding Prayer

Let us be aware of the voices clamouring to be heard on Remembrance Day:
those who demand that gratitude be shown to those who have made the supreme sacrifice and given lives for sovereign and country,
those to whom this is irrelevant past history,
those who wish to remember and expect others to do so,
those for whom today is but a re-opening of wounds and a delay in healing,
those who glory in war and those who loathe it,
those who see war as a cruel necessity,
and those who see it as an evil in which no-one should participate.
Deliver us all from an insensitive polarising of attitudes.

Bible Reading: James 3: 13-18

If you are wise, live a life of steady goodness so that only good deeds will pour forth. And if you don't brag about them, then you will be truly wise! And by all means don't brag about being wise and good if you are bitter and jealous and selfish; that is the worst sort of lie. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, inspired by the devil. For wherever there is jealousy or selfish ambition, there will be disorder and every other kind of evil.

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure and full of quiet gentleness. Then it is peace-loving and courteous. It allows discussion and is willing to yield to others; it is full of mercy and good deeds. It is wholehearted and straightforward and sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.

Reflection *by Malcolm Guite*

November pierces with its black remembrance
Of all the bitterness and waste of war.
Our silence tries but fails to make a semblance
Of that lost peace they thought worth fighting for.
Our silence seethes instead with wraiths and whispers,
And all the restless rumours of new wars,
The shells are singing as we sing our vespers,
No moment is unscarred, there is no pause.
In every instant bloodied innocence
Falls to the weary earth, and whilst we stand
Quiescence ends again in acquiescence,
And Abel's blood still cries in every land.
One silence only might redeem that blood
Only the silence of a dying God.

Hymn: Longing for light

sung by St Martin's Voices

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Chorus

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Chorus

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stones.

Chorus

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Chorus

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Act of Remembrance

Let us remember before God the men and women of all nations who have died as a result of war – those we have known and whose memory we treasure; those we never knew and those who died unknown.

We will remember all who have lived in hope, but died in tragic circumstances – the tortured, the innocent, the starving and the exiled, the imprisoned, the oppressed and the disappeared

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

We observe two minutes silence

Living God, by whose love we are united with one another across the boundaries of time and space, bring us to a new remembrance of your love and life, reflected in earth and sky, and every person who ever lived.

Teach us to be reconciled to one another and to you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayers

We live in two worlds: the one that is and the one that might come to be. Nothing is ordained for us, neither delight nor defeat, neither peace nor war. Life flows and we must freely choose. We can, if we will, change the world that is into the world that ought to be, as we are taught of old:

**Let us depart from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.**

Let us be disciples of the prophets of all times, loving peace and pursuing it, loving all human beings, and bringing them to the Word of God.

**Let us depart from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.**

For God calls us to harden not our hearts nor shut our hands against the poor, our kin; we must open our hearts to them. Nor shall we stand idly by while our neighbours bleed.

**Let us depart from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.**

Let justice well up as the waters and righteousness as a mighty stream, for justice and right ways shall lead to peace; it shall bring quietness and confidence for ever.

**Let us depart from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.**

Then we shall sit under our vines and under our fig trees, and none shall make us afraid again.

**Let us depart from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.**

Peace will remain a distant vision until we do the work of peace ourselves. We must not be content to make peace in our families and in our communities alone; we must go forth and work for peace wherever people struggle in its cause.

O God of peace, inspire us to banish hatred and oppression, war and bloodshed. Help us to establish one human family, doing your will in love and peace. Help us to make the world a sanctuary of goodness and blessing, compassion and mercy.

From this day on, let us see the world in a new light; Justice, justice in peace shall we pursue!

Manchester Mothers' Union prayer

Heavenly Father, as we meet as members of the Mothers' Union in Manchester, may we know Your presence and hear Your word. Teach us how best to serve You, seeing not just the needs of this Diocese but those of the wider world. Help us at all times to trust in You and seek to do Your will. Fill us with Your spirit, encourage us, use us and bless us, that we may have strength to follow Your way. We pray in sure hope and the assurance of Your power. Amen

Hymn: In Christ Alone

sung by St Martin's Voices

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied -
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine -
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Stuart Townend (born 1963) and Keith Getty (born 1974)
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Dismissal

Send us out to be beacons of peace
in a dark world of conflict.
Make us instruments of peace
for whoever we meet and wherever we go,
In the name of the Prince of Peace,
Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen

Thank you for joining in with Thursday Prayers.

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**Next Thursday Prayers will be on 8th December with
the theme of Advent.**