

**Bride Valley and Chesil Remembrance Sunday Telephone Service**  
**12 November 2023**

*(This service includes a two-minute silence. If you wish to hold your silence at around 11am, please start listening or reading at around 10.50am.)*

Welcome to this Service of Remembrance. This act of worship has been put together and recorded by Liz Howlett and can be accessed by phone on Sunday morning on **01308 293062**.

We begin our time of worship by sharing Christ's peace with one another.

Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God.

We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you**.

**PRAYERS OF PENITENCE**

God our Father, maker of all: we praise you for your great work creating the world. Give us the skill to build a society where all may thrive and forgive us when we use your gifts poorly. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God and Prince of peace: as we thank you for your life among us, forgive us when we fail to live together as one family. Help us to dwell together in love and peace, seeking one another's welfare, bearing one another's burdens, and sharing one another's joys. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, generous sustainer of humanity: give us strength to face the future, and wisdom to learn from the past as we remember those who have given their lives in the service of justice and peace. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**HYMN**

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.

*Isaac Watts (Public Domain)*

**REMEMBERING**

Let us remember before God and commend to his sure keeping: those who have died for their country in conflict; those whom we know and whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.

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 sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

**We will remember them.**

*Two minutes silence is kept.*

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: Hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**LISTENING FOR THE WORD FROM GOD**

Hear these words from Matthew's gospel

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*Matthew 5: 1-12*

**REFLECTION**

Just recently, I was fortunate to spend time in the United States of America – the main purpose of my trip was to help with research I'm doing into the founder of the first community – the Christian Contemplatives Charity (or CCC for short) based where Othona is now, on the Coast Road. But I also took the opportunity to visit some excellent museums whilst over there, one of which was the US national World War I museum, based in Kansas City, Missouri. It was thoughtfully and powerfully laid out – we reached the start of the displays by walking over a field of poppies, constructed beneath the glassed-in walkway. The videos and interactive displays helped me understand in a way that I hadn't clearly grasped before, how it was that WWI started with one seemingly local tragic incident in Europe. This assassination led rapidly to so many countries declaring war, either for one side or the other and then becoming bogged down, literally, in deadly trench warfare. It also showed how decisions taken by those distant from the front and not realising the implications, led to unimaginable slaughter on both sides. It told of how the US itself came into that war and endured its own losses.

If only warfare was a topic confined to museums and history books today! If only we could say to the younger generations – to the children in our families and local schools – 'war is something we as a human race have put behind us'. God has made us for peace, for love, for mercy and justice, yet these seem so difficult for us to achieve.

And sadly, war is not a thing of the past alone and so it is even more important to take the time to come together today to remember and to pray. We are keenly aware of the fact that every city, town and village in the UK was marked by WWI and WWII. Our families and our communities emerged carrying damages and losses. At Burton Bradstock this morning the names of those from the Bride valley who lost their lives in these conflicts will have been read out in the church service. One of those named, Geoffrey de Pury, was actually a member of the CCC – the community I mentioned earlier, which was based from the 1930s for two to three decades, where Othona is now. He was known as Brother Geoff and his mother was one of the White Ladies, Sr Margaret. He went into the Royal Navy and lost his life when his ship went down. There was another young man, Alan Bendy, who had been head gardener for the CCC

community in 1939. His aunt was Sr Evelyn, who lived in that community for 20 years. Alan enlisted and joined the Royal Airforce and sadly died aged 24 in the early 1940s. If you go into the Chapel at Othona these days you can see memorial tablets to both of these young men. Heartbreak was endured in that small community, as elsewhere in the local area and across the country and throughout the world. If only warfare was a topic confined to museums and history books today! If only we could say to the younger generations – ‘we are made for peace and war is something we as a human race have put behind us’.

Sadly, war is not a thing of the past alone. The whole of this year has had the dark shadow of the war brought to Ukraine by Russia hanging over it. And in the last few weeks, the tense, unsatisfactory situation between the Israelis and the Palestinians in Gaza has erupted into bloodshed and carnage. It can be tempting to try and forget our past and the world’s present situations but there are many reasons why it is vital that we do not – here are just three reasons...

It is important to remember: we will repeat mistakes of the past if we forget.

It is important to remember: we enjoy freedoms today because of sacrifices made by others.

It is important to remember: we are made for peace... and every life is precious to God.

Loving God, you have made us for peace: give us strength to face the future, and wisdom to learn from the past, as we seek to find and support truly peaceful ways of living together.

**Amen.**

### ***HYMN All my hope on God is founded***

1 All my hope on God is founded;

he doth still my trust renew.

Me through change and chance he guideth,

only good and only true.

God unknown, he alone

calls my heart to be his own.

2 Human pride and earthly glory,

sword and crown betray his trust;

what with care and toil he buildeth,

tower and temple, fall to dust.

But God's power, hour by hour,

is my temple and my tower.

3 God's great goodness ay endureth,

deep his wisdom, passing thought:

splendour, light, and life attend him,

beauty springeth out of nought.

Evermore, from his store

new-born worlds rise and adore.

4 Daily doth the almighty giver

bounteous gifts on us bestow;

his desire our soul delighteth,

pleasure leads us where we go.

Love doth stand at his hand;

joy doth wait on his command.

5 Still from man to God eternal

sacrifice of praise be done,

high above all praises praising

for the gift of Christ his Son.

Christ doth call one and all:

ye who follow shall not fall.

*Meine Hoffnung stehet feste Joachim Neander (1650-1680) Paraphrased Robert Bridges (1844-1930) CCLI Licence 2370586*

### **PRAYER**

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

God of infinite mercy, we trust in your good purposes of peace for all your children.

We pray for those who face danger in the defence of justice.

**Watch over those in peril; support those who are anxious for loved ones; gather into your eternal purpose those who will die.**

Remove from the hearts of all people the passions that keep alive the spirit of war, and **in your goodness restore peace among us; for the sake of the Prince of peace, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **RESPONDING IN HOPE AND COMMITMENT**

*The Kohima epitaph is said*

When you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today.  
Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

**God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all peoples in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.**

### **HYMN**

Brother, sister, let me serve you  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the nighttime of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

Brother, sister, let me serve you  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

*Richard A M Gillard © 1977 Scripture in Song/Maranatha! CCLI Licence 2370586*

### **BLESSING**

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **NATIONAL ANTHEM – FIRST VERSE**

God save our gracious King,  
long live our noble King,  
God save the King.  
Send him victorious,  
happy and glorious,  
long to reign over us:  
God save the King.

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