

A Vigil Service to mark the Centenary of the end of the Great War

To be used on the evening of 10th November 2018 or on the night of Armistice Day, Sunday 11th November 2018. Non-biblical readings may also be used.

The Gathering

Dear Lord and Father of mankind or some other suitable hymn is sung.

Greeting

In the light of Christ, we welcome you this night
as we wait in hope and pray for the ending of all violence and bloodshed.

All **May the peace of Christ burn in our hearts and dawn on our world.**

Silence

Opening Sentence

Jesus said, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.'

John 14.27

Other suitable sentences may follow

We gather at this evening hour to recall the armistice that marked the beginning of the end of the First World War one hundred years ago. We look back in sorrow for all those who suffered injury and loss; we recall those who are suffering in conflicts in our world today, and we look forward to that day when the kingdoms of this world will be ordered by God's peaceable reign.

Act of Recollection

Here may follow a brief mention of any local connection or association with an Army Regiment, Air Force base, Naval establishment, or with a particular operation during the First World War. A large and prominently placed peace candle of remembrance may be lit at this point.

Act of Penitence

When we fail to learn from the past.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

When we let national and personal interests blind us to the suffering of the world.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

When we forget the cost of the freedom we enjoy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

An authorised form of absolution, the declaration of God's forgiveness, is given.

If not already done, this may be followed by the lighting of a large candle for peace.

Sit for

The Readings

First Reading

Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom, And Jacob said, 'O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD who said to me, "Return to your country and to your kindred, and I will do you good", I am not worthy of the least of all the steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan; and now I have become two companies. Deliver me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I am afraid of him; he may come and kill us all, the mothers with the children. Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. He put the maids with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother.

But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he said, 'Who are these with you?' Jacob said, 'The children whom God has graciously given your servant.' Then the maids drew near, they and their children, and bowed down; Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down; and finally Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. Esau said, 'What do you mean by all this company that I met?' Jacob answered, 'To find favour with my lord.' But Esau said, 'I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself.' Jacob said, 'No, please; if I find favour with you, then accept my present from my hand; for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God—since you have received me with such favour. Please accept my gift that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have everything I want.' So he urged him, and he took it.

Genesis 32.3,9–11; 33.1–11

Silence for reflection

Psalm 133

The congregation responds by saying the even verses together

- 1 Behold how good and pleasant it is •
to dwell together in unity.
- 2 **It is like the precious oil upon the head, •
running down upon the beard,**
- 3 Even on Aaron's beard, •
running down upon the collar of his clothing.

- 4 **It is like the dew of Hermon •
running down upon the hills of Zion.**
- 5 For there the Lord has promised his blessing: •
even life for evermore.

Second Reading

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Isaiah 2.1–4

Silence for reflection

Psalm 29

This may be said by a solo voice, with the congregation saying the refrain together

Refrain: The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, •
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; •
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; •
the Lord is upon the mighty waters. **[Refrain]**
- 4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; •
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; •
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf •
and Sirion like a young wild ox. **[Refrain]**
- 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; •
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare; •
in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'

9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood; •
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

10 The Lord shall give strength to his people; •
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Refrain: The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Third Reading

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

Matthew 21.1–9

Silence for reflection

Psalm 24

The congregation says alternate verses

1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, •
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.

2 **For he has founded it upon the seas •
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.**

3 'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, •
or who can rise up in his holy place?'

4 **'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, •
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,
nor sworn an oath to a lie;**

5 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, •
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'

6 **Such is the company of those who seek him, •
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; •
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 **‘Who is the King of glory?’ •**
‘The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord who is mighty in battle.’
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; •
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 **‘Who is this King of glory?’ •**
‘The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.’

Fourth Reading

This passage will need to be introduced carefully, placing it in context

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Luke 24.36–53

Silence for reflection

Psalm 115

This may be said by a solo voice with the congregation saying the refrain together

Refrain: The Lord has been mindful of us and he will bless us.

- 1 Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to your name give the glory, •
for the sake of your loving mercy and truth.
- 2 Why should the nations say, •
'Where is now their God?'
- 3 As for our God, he is in heaven; •
he does whatever he pleases.
- 4 Their idols are silver and gold, •
the work of human hands. **[Refrain]**
- 5 They have mouths, but cannot speak; •
eyes have they, but cannot see;
- 6 They have ears, but cannot hear; •
noses have they, but cannot smell;
- 7 They have hands, but cannot feel; feet have they, but cannot walk; •
not a whisper do they make from their throats.
- 8 Those who make them shall become like them •
and so will all who put their trust in them. **[Refrain]**
- 9 But you, Israel, put your trust in the Lord; •
he is their help and their shield.
- 10 House of Aaron, trust in the Lord; •
he is their help and their shield.
- 11 You that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; •
he is their help and their shield.
- 12 The Lord has been mindful of us and he will bless us; •
may he bless the house of Israel; may he bless the house of Aaron;
- 13 May he bless those who fear the Lord, •
both small and great together. **[Refrain]**
- 14 May the Lord increase you more and more, •
you and your children after you.
- 15 May you be blest by the Lord, •
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 16 The heavens are the heavens of the Lord, •
but the earth he has entrusted to his children.

- 17 The dead do not praise the Lord, •
nor those gone down into silence;
- 18 But we will bless the Lord, •
from this time forth for evermore.
Alleluia.

Refrain: The Lord has been mindful of us, and he will bless us.

The Prayers

Let us pray together

**All Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

The Collect

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

CW, The Third Sunday Before Advent

The Lord's Prayer

As we look back with upon the wastes and sorrows of past conflicts, so we pray that the Lord will show us his mercy and forgiveness and extend his healing upon our broken world. And so we pray for the coming of God's Kingdom in the words that Jesus gave us:

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|---|--|
| All 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. | All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

**And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

If appropriate, members of the congregation may be invited to simultaneously join in saying the Lord's Prayer in French or German

Notre Père, qui es aux cieux,
Que ton nom soit sanctifié,
Que ton règne vienne,
Que ta volonté soit faite
sur la terre comme au ciel.
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour.
Pardonne-nous nos offenses
Comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés.
Et ne nous soumetts pas à la tentation,
mais délivre-nous du mal,
car c'est à toi qu'appartiennent le règne,
la puissance et la gloire, aux siècles des siècles.
Amen.

Vater unser im Himmel,
geheiligt werde dein Name;
dein Reich komme;
dein Wille geschehe,
wie im Himmel so auf Erden.
Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute.
Und vergib uns unsere Schuld,
wie auch wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern;
und führe uns nicht in Versuchung,
sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen.
Denn dein ist das Reich und die Kraft
und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit.
Amen.

The Dismissal

May the Lord keep and guard us through the silent hours of the night.

All And in the day, guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.