



Welcome

John 15v13

Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

Hymn

(tune: Before the Throne of God above)

O Lord, we look upon the past,
rememb'ring those who went before
who heard the call and bore for us
the brutal, bloody face of war.
We think of them and think of you,
who came to earth as one of us,
to share our pain and bear our wounds,
and make the final sacrifice.

O Lord, we look around today
and see a world in conflict still.
We pray for those who strive for peace,
who stand for truth or lives rebuild.
We weep with those whose hearts are scarred,
whose way is hard, whose hope is weak.
To refugees whose homes are lost,
God of all comfort, comfort speak.

O Lord, we look ahead in hope
to see the dawning of the day
when swords are beaten into ploughs
and every tear is wiped away;
when wounds are healed and fear dispelled
and all who trust in you arise;
when Christ, the Prince of Peace, has come,
and glory, glory fills the skies.

Introduction

We have come together to worship God: to offer him praise and thanksgiving for our Nation's deliverance in time of war; to call to mind those who through death, injury or bereavement suffered to bring peace and freedom to our world; to seek forgiveness for our failure to achieve reconciliation between nations; and to ask for strength to overcome evil and injustice wherever it is found.

Confession

Jesus said, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. He also said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

As we realise our failure to live up to Christ's standards and to obey his commands, let us come in penitence to seek God's forgiveness, as we say together

Almighty and merciful God, Lord of people and nations, we confess with shame the sins, both private and public, by which we have broken your law and grieved your spirit.

We acknowledge the reproach that we have brought upon the name of Christ. We confess our lack of love for you and others. For the sake of your Son, who died for us, save us from our sins, take from us all hatred and bitterness, whether in thought, word or action.

Teach us to forgive as we are forgiven, so that we may grow like him and live our lives according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

May the Father of all mercies cleanse you from your sins, and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 46

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.***
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.***
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.***
- ⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.***

⁶ *Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.*

⁷ *The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

⁸ *Come and see the works of the LORD,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.*

⁹ *He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear,
he burns the shields with fire.*

¹⁰ *"Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."*

¹¹ *The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

Bible Reading

Jonah 3

¹ *Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."*

³ *Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city--a visit required three days. ⁴ On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned."⁵ The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.*

⁶ *When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh:*

"By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

¹⁰ *When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.*

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Prayers of intercession and 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 us our sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

Act of Remembrance

Let us remember with gratitude those who, in the cause of peace and the service of their fellow men, died for their country in time of war.

“They shall grow not old, as we who 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.**

Silence

Hymn

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;

There is no shadow of turning with Thee;

Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;

As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! (x2) Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

The Blessing

O God of truth and justice, help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and to fix our eyes upon you. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.
Amen.