



St Laurence Church and
Alvechurch Memorial Green
**Remembrance
Sunday**

GATHERING

Words of welcome and introduction are said

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

All **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

You have been my helper

All **and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.**

Psalm 63.8

We sing,

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair
Lord, in your suffering this is our prayer.
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsman, trade for their skills.
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

God of the poor...

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned: our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;
make us content with the things that we need.

God of the poor...

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
until your justice burns brightly again;
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.

God of the poor...

Graham Kendrick (b.1950)

The Word of God

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

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

For the word of the Lord,

All **Thanks be to God.**

Address

Prayers

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict,
and ask that God may give us peace:

for service men and women who have died in the violence of war,
each one remembered by and known to God;

God give peace.

All **God give peace.**

For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of
our grief and the sadness of our loss;

God give peace.

All **God give peace.**

For all live with the reality or threat of war this day,
remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;
God give peace.

All **God give peace.**

For all whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,
calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;
God give peace.

All **God give peace.**

For peacemakers and peacekeepers,
who seek to keep this world secure and free;
God give peace.

All **God give peace.**

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership,
political, military and religious;
asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for
reconciliation and peace;
God give peace.

All **God give peace.**

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose
memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know.
Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world,
and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.
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.

The Collect of the day is said
Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught 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.
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.**

*As we sing, the congregation turns to face the War Memorial in Church as
a wreath is laid.*

Hymn

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

John Greenleaf Whittier (1872)

May God give us grace to follow the saints in glory.

All **Amen.**

Please join us as we walk to Memorial Green for an
Act of Remembrance and Commitment to Peace.

Act of Remembrance

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.

Minister In peace let us remember before God,
and commend to his sure keeping:
those who have died for their country in war;
those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure;
and all who have lived and died in the service of humankind.

Reading of Names

We honour and remember those of this parish who gave their lives in the First World War:

The names are read.

We honour and remember those of this parish who gave their lives in the Second World War:

The names are read.

We honour and remember those of this parish who gave their lives in subsequent conflicts:

Older person They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.

Younger person At the going down of the sun
and in the morning we will remember them.

All affirm **We will remember them**

Silence

The last post is sounded, and two-minute silence is kept

Silence ends with the Reveille

Concluding with this prayer:

Ever-living God, we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We all join together in the Lord's Prayer

**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.
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.**

Wreaths are laid at Memorial Green by –

<i>Worcestershire County Council</i>	<i>Alvechurch Village Society</i>
<i>Bromsgrove District Council</i>	<i>Alvechurch Women's Institute</i>
<i>Alvechurch Parish Council</i>	<i>Hopwood Women's Institute</i>
<i>Alvechurch Services Association</i>	<i>Alvechurch & Hopwood Cricket Club</i>
<i>West Mercia Police</i>	<i>Alvechurch Football Club</i>
<i>Girl Guiding Alvechurch</i>	<i>Five Ways Old Edwardian's Rugby Football Club</i>
<i>Alvechurch Middle School</i>	<i>Kings Norton Rugby Football Club</i>
<i>Crown Meadow First School</i>	

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.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

All **We will**

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

All **We will**

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

All **We will**

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us
that have not yet been cast out by love:
May we accept the hope you have placed
in the hearts of all people,
and live lives of justice, courage and mercy;
through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer.

All **Amen.**

The National Anthem

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.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On him be pleased to pour,
Long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

The Blessing

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest,
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth and all people,
unity, peace and concord,
and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all
and remain with you always.

All **Amen**

*You are warmly invited for refreshments in
The Ark at St Laurence Church.*

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