

Remembrance Service Polesworth Baptist Church 100th commemoration of the Armistice 11th November 2018

Welcome:

We meet to remember those whose lives, in world wars, conflicts, terrorism and peace-keeping have been given and taken away, and those whose lives have been and are being lived in the burden of bereavement, disability and pain and all the sufferings of violence.

As we thank God for the ending of the 1st world war at 11:00 am on Monday 11th November 1918, in the laying down of arms, let us not forget the victory that their arms and sacrifice achieved. And let us not forget the victory that was won for our lives in the outstretched arms of love by Jesus Christ upon the cross.

Hymn: O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder

Invite the children, if any.

Have you ever been ill?

Have you ever fallen and hurt yourself, have you ever cried out to your mummy and daddy to help you?

And when you were ill and when you were hurt, and when you cried out what did you want your mummy, or your daddy to do?

Didn't you want them to lift you up, to hold you tight and take the sickness and the hurt away?

And did you know this:

your tears, your sickness

is a hurt in the hearts of your mum and dad.

The one thing they want to do, when you are hurt or sick

is to make you well, is to take away your hurt.

If they could they would even take your sickness and your hurt onto themselves.

Do you know what day today is?

Today is called Remembrance Sunday.

It's a very special day of remembering.

There are 2 things that must never be forgotten.

The first is this.

A long time ago, even before your mummies and daddies were as young as you, there were bullies in the playing fields of Europe.

They went about hurting other people. Just to get their own way. And the mums and dads of your mums and dads said this isn't right. And they got together and helped the people who were being hurt and stood up to the bullies. And that meant some of them got hurt.

And the 2nd thing we remember is this

They did what they did because

it was what Jesus would have done. Not by fighting but by being to die to save lives, even our lives.

Today we remember how we helped the people who were being hurt, by wearing poppies. And that's what we're asking you to make – in a craft time - make poppies of remembrance.

And we remember what Jesus did for us.

We read Acts 2:22-32 [NIV]

²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body

also will rest in hope, ²⁷ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay.

²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.”

²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day.

³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.

³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

Reflection:

The greatest sorrow we can suffer is death.

I know that some people greatly suffer in and death when it comes can be greeted as a release from suffering.

But I also think that those who love them would much prefer it if they could somehow hold their suffering family and friends in arms of love and stop their sickness, their hurt, their loss of the fullness of life, for life is meant to be lived in love and joy and peace not in sickness and sorrow.

There was a night when Jesus met with His disciples for the last time. They didn't know it was going to be the last time, but He did.

And that night He spoke of many things that they did not really understand. Some of these things He gathered together in these words:

If you love me you will do what I command.

And my command is this:

Love one another the way I loved you.

This is the very best way to love.

Put your life on the line for your friends.

You are my friends when you do the things I command you.

And: I have much more to say to you, more than you can bear, but when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth.

On Pentecost Sunday the Spirit came and the disciples were given understanding about Jesus and His death upon the cross. They saw it was not a defeat. By the Spirit's power they were able to declare that Jesus was not decaying in the grave, but that God had raised Him to life. And that resurrection changes everything, for in Christ we see that God was curing death.

That's why we remember Jesus with a cross. And why the medals we give for great acts of self-sacrifice are often called crosses. They reflect Christ Jesus, who gave Himself, the Lord of life to being shamed, stricken & stretched under God's curse on a cross to freely and willingly die, so we may be set free from the power of evil, hurting and killing our lives.

We wear poppies to remember those who gave their lives to give others freedom.

But even more so may we remember that we are friends of Jesus
Friends whose friendship is shown
by our willingness to lay down our lives for Him.

To be what He wants us to be.

To do what He wants us to do.

Friends whose friendship is shown

By a growing desire to give Him our life, our all

Even, like Him, to lay down our lives for others.

Pause for personal reflection:

Hymn: When I survey the wondrous cross

We make our offering for the kingdom

we stand and read words from Laurence Binyon's poem
'For the Fallen':

They shall grow not 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.**

Remain standing [if able] to watch a video.
[Warning it begins with a bang] .

Video showing **The Last Post.**

Two Minutes Silence

Reveille

The Kohima Epitaph

We sing: O God our help in ages past [3 verses]

We lay our poppies beneath our memorial plaque

Prayer: Almighty and everloving Father

We thank You for all those who laid down their lives for us.

May they now be at rest in Your peace.

Let the memory of their righteous deeds
be an example and inspiration to us.

May we be as willing as them

to live in courage and compassion for the sake of peace.

And may we rise from death to life into the blessing of Your new
creation, in Christ Jesus Name we pray. Amen.

We complete singing: O God our help in ages past

We share communion:

Almighty and ever-loving Father we thank You, for through the
the cross of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You rescued us
from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom
of the Son You love. Thank you Father for Your love us.

We praise You Lord Jesus Christ for You are the stone the
builders rejected who has become the cornerstone of life.
Thank you Lord for Your love for us.

The Lord Jesus who stretched out His arms for us on the cross
holds them wide open now, inviting us to share in this feast of
remembrance, to take up our friendship with Him in love's
obedience and be willing to put our lives on the line for Him and
for others. This is the living of our remembrance.

Yet the temptation us to take our friendship for granted.

Father forgive us, for we don't know what we are doing.
We pray Father, that You would release Your Spirit within us, so we may have the desire and strength to obey Jesus, to love as He loved, and if the need be to take up our cross, trusting You in the resurrection of our lives.

In repentance and in faith let us receive the promise of grace and the assurance of pardon: here are words we may trust, words which merit our full acceptance:

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, to all who turn to Him, He says: Your sins are forgiven. He also says; 'sin no more' and 'follow me`.

Therefore let us firmly resolve, in the grace of Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit to transform our lives from this moment on, so help us God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Father, please release your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on this bread and wine, so that this bread may be for us the body of Christ, and this wine, the blood of Christ.

As Your people we remember, as the apostle Paul tells us: that on the night when Jesus was betrayed He took bread, and when He had given thanks, He said, '**This is my body which is for you; do this in remembrance of me**'.

Therefore

Let us take this bread in remembrance that Christ died for us and eat in our hearts by faith for this is the bread of life.
[The Bread is distributed]

In the same way after supper, Jesus took the cup and said: '**This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.**'

Distribution of the Wine Grapes are also provided

Let us we drink the wine together:

The blood of Christ shed for us and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

We pray for others: to the words:

May God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit give them peace:

Please respond: May God give them peace.

Father, in whose keeping is the life of all people,
we remember before You, all who through the wars of our times
live in the suffering of body, soul and spirit.

May God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit give them peace:

Please respond: May God give them peace.

We pray for all members of the armed forces who are in danger
this day, and their families & friends yearning for their safe return:

May God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit give them peace:

Please respond: May God give them peace.

For all civilian adults & children whose lives are disfigured by war
or terror:

May God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit give them peace:

Please respond: May God give them peace.

For peace-makers & peace-keepers
seeking our safety and freedom:

May God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit give them peace:

Please respond: May God give them peace.

We also pray for ourselves.

Father, through Christ Jesus

You have shown us Your great love for us.

Graciously look on us Your children:

in our joy and in our weariness and disappointments may Your
comfort refresh our souls, Your peace sustain our spirits and Your
love so shine in our lives that others may see Your good deeds
and give You praise in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And finally Father, grant us grace in Christ to pray for those who
wish us harm. Amen.

We share the prayer that the Lord Jesus gave us:

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

We sing: I will sing the wondrous story

Blessing:

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
bless us and keep us in His love;
May the LORD Jesus Christ make His face to shine upon us
and be gracious to us;
May the LORD the Holy Spirit live in fellowship with us
and give us peace. Amen.