

**Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit**

**Worship at Home**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Welcome to worship with the Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit.**

Welcome to worship on Remembrance Sunday.

**Call to Worship**

Blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called the sons and daughters of God.

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

I am the Resurrection and the Life.

**StF 394**

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,  
gentle as is the dove,  
teach us the truth and help us believe,  
show us the Saviour's love.

You spoke to us long, long ago,  
gave us the written word;  
we read it still, needing its truth,  
through it God's voice is heard.

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,  
gentle as is the dove,  
teach us the truth and help us believe,  
show us the Saviour's love!

Without your help we fail our Lord,  
we cannot live His way;  
we need Your power, we need Your strength,  
following Christ each day.

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,  
gentle as is the dove;  
teach us the truth and help us believe,  
show us the Saviour's love.

Tune: Skye Boat Song arr Paul Leddington Wright  
Words Margaret V Old 1932-2001

**Let us pray**

God of peace, we worship you.  
You brought life out of nothing.  
You separated light from darkness.  
You brought order out of chaos.  
You raised Jesus from the dead.  
You overcame evil and death.  
You sent your Holy Spirit.  
You have called us to live in love and peace  
with one another.

We praise you for the great cloud of  
witnesses who gather around us today.  
We thank you for all who laid down their lives  
for their family and friends in time of war and  
conflict.

We thank you for all who have served during  
war and conflict who still carry the wounds  
and scars of battle.

We thank you for the hard-won liberty and  
freedom that has secured peace in our time.  
We thank you for all who continue to work for  
concord, justice and peace amongst the  
nations. May nation speak peace unto nation.

We thank you, Lord God, that you have not  
washed your hands of us, during this time of  
pandemic. We thank you that you have  
washed us in the blood of Jesus and forgiven  
our sins.

We thank you, Lord God, that you have not  
socially distanced yourself from us but  
brought us fully into your presence to share  
your glory through Jesus, crucified, risen and  
ascended.

We thank you, Lord God, that you have  
unmasked yourself in history, at the place of  
the skull, where you have shown us your  
face, in Jesus. Through his story you have  
made his will and purpose known for us and  
for all creation.

Help us, during these days when we are  
socially distanced and masked, not to wash  
our hands of our responsibilities to one  
another in the church and community. Instead  
may we keep safe and share the virus of love  
divine, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

## Readings

### Micah 4 v 1-4

But in the last days it will come about that the Temple Mount of the Lord will be firmly set as the leading mountain. It will be exalted above its surrounding hills, and people will stream toward it. Many nations will approach and say, 'Come, let's go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the Temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us about his ways, and we will walk according to his directions.' Indeed, the Law will proceed from Zion, and the message of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he will judge among many people, rebuking strong nations far away; and they will reshape their swords as ploughshares and their spears as pruning hooks. No nation will threaten another, nor will they train for war anymore. Instead, each man will sit in the shade of his grape vines and beneath the shade of his fig tree since the Lord of the heavenly armies has spoken.

### Hebrews 12 v 1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

**This is the word of the Lord!**

**Thanks be to God!**

### Reflection

On this Remembrance Sunday, we remember the fallen of two World Wars which left an indelible mark on the twentieth century and upon the lives of families and communities around the world.

A symbol of remembrance is sometimes served *by a monument of marble or a simple wooden cross*. In some instances, the names

of the fallen are etched in stone but, more poignantly, the lives of the fallen echo deep in the hearts of their family and friends.

Some of us are old enough to have recollections of those who served in the first world war but perhaps for many more of us, we will have heard stories told by parents and grandparents about their experiences in world war two. In my particular case, my father served in the RAF and was, for a time, in Rangoon in Burma, as it was then called. My mother, being that much younger than my father, was evacuated from London to Indian Queens in Cornwall for part of the war. Every family will have a story to tell and today is an opportunity to recall the tales of service and sacrifice that have shaped our personal history and experience of war. The wearing of a poppy is a reminder of this reality and a sign of hope for the future.

Thankfully, since the latter half of the 1940s, the world has experienced a long period of prosperity and peace which many of us have been privileged to enjoy. The danger is that we may have begun to take life for granted as a right rather than as a gift from God, a point I have often made at a funeral thanksgiving service. Perhaps Covid-19 is a timely reminder that life is indeed a gift from God which we should celebrate and cherish!

As we face the future with hope in our hearts, let us thank God for those who served in two world wars and subsequent conflicts, especially those known to us.

Let us thank God in this month of remembrance, with All Saints and All Souls, for the saints in light, who have run the race before us. Let us pray that they may rest in peace.

Today, may we recommit ourselves to God and humanity, so we turn *swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks* as we sow seeds of love and peace in the hearts and lives of one another.

**Amen.**

Rev Keith M Phipps

## StF 131

**By a monument of marble,**  
or a simple wooden cross,  
here we gather to remember  
sacrifice and tragic loss.  
Blood-red poppy petals flutter,  
each a symbol for a life,  
drifting in a crimson curtain,  
shadow of our constant strife.

Solemn silence now surrounds us  
as we stand in memory.  
Why must factions stir up conflict?  
This eternal mystery  
troubles hearts and stirs the conscience,  
urges us to think again;  
face the curse of confrontation,  
yet reduce this searing pain.

For the sound of war still thunders  
Through our planet, on this day.  
Every hour new victims suffer,  
even as we meet to pray.  
God, we need your help and guidance  
in our constant search for peace.  
Move us on to new solutions  
as we pray that wars may cease.

Words Marjorie Dobson b1940  
Tune Scarlet Ribbons Evelyn Danzig arr John L Bell

### **Act of Remembrance**

(if appropriate for you at home)

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.**

Silence

When you go home, tell them of us and say

For your tomorrow, we gave our today.

**Amen**

## **Prayers of intercession**

Let us pray for all who serve in the Royal  
Navy, the Royal Air Force and the Army.

Let us pray for the work of the Royal British  
Legion.

**The Lord hears our prayer.**

Let us pray for the leaders of the nations.

Let us pray for ambassadors and diplomats.

Let us pray for the ongoing Brexit  
conversations.

**The Lord hears our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who grieve and mourn.

Let us pray for the sick, ill and dying

Let us pray for our family, friends and  
neighbours.

**The Lord hears our prayer.**

**A collect:**

Almighty Father you call us your children to  
live as brothers and sisters, in love and  
harmony, and have given your Son to be our  
Saviour, the Prince of Peace: grant that we,  
who are called by his Name, may yield our  
lives to your service and strive for  
reconciliation, understanding and peace in all  
our relationships; for the sake of Jesus Christ  
our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

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**

**StF 465****Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,**

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with Thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore;  
feed me now and evermore.

Open thou the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream shall flow;  
let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.

Words: William Williams (1717-1791)  
Trans Peter Williams (1727-1796)

Tune : CWM RHONDDA  
Music: John Hughes of Pontypridd (1873-1932)

**A Blessing**

The blessing of God the Father,  
God the Son and God the Holy Spirit  
be with you and those whom you love,  
on earth and in heaven,  
this day and for evermore,

**Amen.**