



Ripon & Lower Dales

Worship at Home

13th November 2022
Remembrance Sunday

Gathering Prayer

Loving God, source of healing and hope,
strengthen us for life's challenges,
help us to trust the future to you,
and to remember the courage
of those who have faced adversity with faith.
Amen.

Call to Worship

We carry with us the remembrances of
disasters,
large and small, global and local, national and
personal.

Each, in its way, changes our world for ever.
As we gather on Remembrance Sunday,
may we lay all our losses before God,
trusting that we will be led to new life
and fresh hope for the future. Amen.

Hymn All my hope on God is founded

- 1 All my hope on God is founded ;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.
- 2 Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust ;
what with care and toil we fashion,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.
- 3 God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom passing thought ;
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.
- 4 Daily doth the almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow ;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand ;
joy doth wait on his command.

- 5 Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all
ye who follow shall not fall.

Robert Bridges (1844–1930) (*alt.*)
based on Joachim Neander (1650–1680)

A candle may be lit here.

God of all ages,
trusting in the light of your love,
trusting in the permanence of your peace,
trusting in the strength of your security,
trusting in the promises of your kingdom,
we bring you our prayers.
Remembering those we love,
those we miss,
and those whose lives are a struggle.
Amen.

Prayers of praise, thanksgiving and confession

Holy God, you are the creator of all
– so we trust you for our world and beyond.
Lord Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace
– so we trust that wars will one day end.
Holy Spirit, you are the breath of life
– so we trust you for all creatures and all
creation.
Holy God, even in the midst of the most
difficult of times, we trust you for eternity.

We praise you, eternal God,
for those who inspire us through their
struggles,
for those who speak your word
though it is dangerous and costly,
for opportunities to learn from our mistakes
and to grow in wisdom.

We praise you,
and we look to you when we can find no
answers - and see no future,
for you are our God in war, in peace, in life,
in death and for ever.

God of yesterday, today and tomorrow,
when our world is falling apart and we turn
away from you:
forgive us and help us to trust you.

When the whole world is being torn apart and we despair:

forgive us and help us to trust you.

When the whole universe is out of kilter and we fear the worst:

forgive us and help us to trust you.

Help us to stand firm, speak truth and serve you, today and tomorrow, in Jesus' name.

Lord Jesus, though your words are sometimes tough, you are gentle with us as we grapple with their meaning. Though the world is divided in so many ways, you would unite us. Though it sometimes seems as if our lives can't be mended, you give us hope, reassuring us that our world and our lives are in your hands. Always.

We entrust to you, eternal God, those times when we can see only shadows and lose sight of the hope to come; the times when suffering seems so senseless, life so fragile, war so unstoppable and death so permanent. Bless us with the assurance that you are in all things, the tragic and the beautiful, the nightmare and the dream, the light and the darkness. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the peace of the world, today, tomorrow and forever. Amen.

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.

Hymn Everlasting God (Yesterday, today and tomorrow)

1 Everlasting God,
the years go by but you're unchanging.
In this fragile world,
you are the only firm foundation.
Always loving, always true,
always merciful and good, so good.

*Yesterday, today and forever,
you are the same, you never change.
Yesterday, today and forever,
you are faithful and we will trust in you.*

2 Uncreated One,
you have no end and no beginning.
Earthly powers fade,
but there is no end to your kingdom.
Always loving, always true,
always merciful and good, so good.

*Yesterday, today and forever,
you are the same, you never change.
Yesterday, today and forever,
you are faithful and we will trust in you.*

*Yahweh, God unchanging.
Yahweh, firm foundation.
You are Yahweh, God unchanging.
Yahweh, firm foundation.*

*Yesterday, today and forever,
you are the same, you never change.
Yesterday, today and forever,
you are faithful and we will trust in you.*

Vicky Beeching

I wonder what Remembrance Sunday means to you? Did you serve in a World War, or a more recent conflict, or have family members who served? Can you name people who gave the ultimate sacrifice of their life, so that others may have freedom in theirs? Perhaps you are like me, with no military personnel in the family, and no relatives who died in the two World Wars that you know of, but you may have been told the story of someone from a friend, and therefore have one name to recall – or perhaps you know surnames from your local War Memorial. If you do know names, bring them to mind, bring them before God, otherwise just ask God to recall those who died, after all he knows every single one by their name. Bring before God, all those who have died in wars in recent times - Korea, Vietnam, Falklands, Afghanistan, Iraq and Ukraine.

Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping:

those who have died for their country in conflict;
those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure;
and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.

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.

The Silence

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life:

Hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day;
Fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn O God, our help in ages past

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.
- 2 Under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure ;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.
- 5 The busy tribes of flesh and blood,
with all their cares and fears,
are carried downward by the flood,
and lost in following years.
- 6 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away ;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

Bible Readings: Malachi 4:1-2

Judgment and Covenant Renewal

4 ¹“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. ²But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves.

Luke 21:5-19

The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

⁵ Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, ⁶“As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.”

⁷“Teacher,” they asked, “when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?”

⁸ He replied: “Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them. ⁹When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.”

¹⁰ Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. ¹³ And so you will bear testimony to me. ¹⁴ But make up your

mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. ¹⁵ For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ Everyone will hate you because of me. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ Stand firm, and you will win life.

Reflection

Malachi has a harsh message to deliver – as all prophets do. He speaks in God’s name, to God’s people – so they, and us today, ought to listen carefully to what he has to say. First, there are words of judgement: ‘See, the day is coming...’ (v.1). This is God judging and punishing the ‘arrogant and all evildoers’. But it is not the whole story; those ‘who revere my name’ will enjoy life to the full (v.2). Have you ever seen cows let into a field in spring, after a winter indoors? They leap and gambol just like the lambs do! True happiness, and delight in God’s creation after winter darkness

Malachi reminds us of the choice between separation from God and living in darkness, with a life lived in the light of fulfilment, which hinges upon where God is in our lives.

In the Luke reading, we are in the Temple, the largest, most impressive building in Jerusalem, which signified the very presence of God with his people. But it had a chequered history. The original Temple of Solomon was destroyed. This was seen as God’s judgement upon Israel, and led to their time of exile in Babylon. It was later rebuilt but it fell into disrepair and was subsequently restored and rebuilt. Jesus’ words ‘all will be thrown down’ (v.6) would have been shocking to his audience, spoken as they were within 10 years of that restoration. They would not like the suggestion that God was abandoning his people.

This section of the Bible is referred to as ‘the end times’. And that can be problematic for us, if we take its images of recurring threats that the end of all things will happen soon or on a particular date. The problem is, of course, that time comes and goes, yet nothing seems to change and, if anything, the

end seems even less likely. Jesus gives three reasons why we need to take this seriously, while not jumping to any rash decisions.

First, don’t worry about dates and details (vv.7-8). It might be easier to know precise details, you could plan ahead – make your Will, but we are not all-knowing – that is for God alone and not for us – so “don’t be misled by anyone who claims they know”, Jesus says. Have you heard the story of the man who was told he had a terminal illness. He sold and gave away every possession, and then found he’d been misdiagnosed!

Second, life is precarious and prone to disturbances and disasters (vv.9-10); but not every disaster is the end of the world, no matter how bad it might appear to be at the time. There’s a story of a group of Jews in a concentration camp putting God on trial for abandoning his people. After many witnesses spoke to support the case for the prosecution, an older rabbi stood up and announced they must stop their debate because it was the time for prayers. Life goes on. Most of us feel we are living in unprecedented times, and yet the sun rises each morning, random acts of kindness still occur – and God is still here, loving us, each and every one of us.

Third, being faithful does not mean life will be easy or uneventful (vv.12-19). Jesus warns his followers of persecution and suffering, but he also promises that he will be with them. The origin of the word martyr is simply ‘a witness’, a person who speaks the truth regardless of personal cost. Jesus says: Don’t confuse what looks great or permanent with the eternal. Only God is eternal, great and permanent. Turn to God, stand firm in his love, trust in Him alone.

No matter what your life is like today, that is a good belief to hold onto. Through Christ’s death on the cross - his sacrifice for us, we are assured of the presence of the Holy Spirit within our lives, today and tomorrow. So let’s take courage in that thought, stand firm in faith, with a bright hope for tomorrow. Amen.

Hymn 736 In heavenly love abiding

1 In heavenly love abiding,
no change my heart shall fear;
and safe is such confiding,

for nothing changes here :
the storm may roar without me,
my heart may low be laid ;
but God is round about me,
and can I be dismayed ?

2 Wherever he may guide me,
no want shall turn me back ;
my Shepherd is beside me,
and nothing can I lack :
his wisdom ever waketh,
his sight is never dim ;
he knows the way he taketh,
and I will walk with him.

3 Green pastures are before me,
which yet I have not seen ;
bright skies will soon be o'er me,
where darkest clouds have been ;
my hope I cannot measure,
my path to life is free ;
my Saviour has my treasure,
and he will walk with me.

Anna Laetitia Waring (1823–1910)

Prayers for others

On this Remembrance Sunday,
we remember past wars:
those who fought in them;
those who lived through them;
those who died in them.

We pray for the victims of past wars,
remembering before you, loving God,
those who died in battle,
or from the consequences of injury or
disease,
and those who mourned or still mourn them.
We remember those permanently maimed or
disabled,
and those psychologically scarred or
disturbed.

We pray for an end to the suffering of war.

We pray for the victims of current conflicts,
remembering before you, loving God,
children trained to hate and fight,
families turned into homeless refugees,
and lands laid waste and made barren.
We remember those blinded or crippled
and those driven insane by nightmare
experiences.
We pray for an end to the destructive hatred
of war.

We pray for the peace of the world
remembering before you, loving God,

areas where there is armed conflict ...
and all those who are working for peace.
We remember that you have called us to
strive together for the coming of your
kingdom of love and peace.

We pray that you will equip us for the task
with the faith that knows that nothing can
separate us from the love of Christ.

In the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace. Amen.

Hymn 696 For the healing of the nations

1 For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord ;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

2 Lead us forward into freedom ;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

3 All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned ;
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

4 You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind ;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind ;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Fred Kaan (1929–2009)

Blessing

In a world still torn by conflicts,
send us out as makers of peace.
In a world of destruction,
send us out as menders and builders.
In a world of hurt,
send us out as healers.
Where worlds are ending,
send us out with faith in new beginnings.

And may the grace of God be with you,
The peace of Christ fill you,
And the strength of the Spirit sustain you,
Throughout this coming week. Amen

Kathy Lowrie