



Parish of
St Peter Woking
St Peter's · St Mark's · All Souls'



Sunday 8 November

Remembrance Sunday

Opening Scripture

Leader God is our refuge and strength;
a very present help in trouble. *Psalm 46.1*

Welcome

Leader We meet in the presence of God.
We commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.
We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.
We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

Opening Prayer

Hymn **498 O God our help in ages past**

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 Your
throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is Your arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,

from everlasting You are God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Your 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 with the dawning day.

O God, our help in ages past, and our eternal home.
our hope for years to come,
be our defence while life shall
last,

Words by Isaac Watts
Music by William Croft

Opening Activity – *Sacrifice and Service* – Robin Jones

Reflect on these questions

1. What ways did people serve in War time?
2. What did people sacrifice in War time?
3. Why is it important to remember the sacrifice and service of those who lived through the wars?

Confession (*Please sit or kneel*)

Leader Let us confess our share in what is wrong, and our failure to seek and establish that peace which God wills for his children.

All **God of peace, forgive us when we have participated in that which turns people against each other; for fuelling anger and harbouring vengeance, for not heeding your call to love one another. Inspire us never to give up on the hope that your life offers us, and the courage to see past war and desolation and live for the day when it will be peace. Amen**

Absolution

Leader May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself and cleanse us from our sins, that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

Video The People's War

Hymn – He's our rescuer

<i>He's our rescuer, He's our rescuer</i>	There is good news for the captive
<i>We are free from sin forever more</i>	Good news for the shamed
<i>Oh how sweet the sound</i>	There is good news for the one
<i>Oh how grace abounds</i>	who walked away
<i>We will praise the Lord our rescuer</i>	

There is good news for the
doubter
The one religion failed
For the Good Lord has come to
seek and save

He's our rescuer . . .

He is beauty for the blind man
Riches for the poor
He is friendship for the one the
world ignores
He is pasture for the weary
Rest for those who strive

For the Good Lord is the way,
the truth, the life
Yes the Good Lord is the way,
the truth, the life

He's our rescuer . . .

So come and be chainless
Come and be fearless
Come to the foot of Calvary
There is redemption
For every affliction
Here at the foot of Calvary x2

He's our rescuer . . .

The Rend Collective

Bible readings

Amos 5:18-24 – Andy Holcombe, St Mark's

¹⁸Woe to you who long for the day of
the Lord! Why do you long for the day of
the Lord? That day will be darkness, not
light. ¹⁹It will be as though a man fled
from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house
and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him.

²⁰Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light- pitch-dark,
without a ray of brightness?

²¹"I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your
assemblies. ²²Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain
offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice
fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. ²³Away with
the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your
harps. ²⁴But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a
never-failing stream!

1 Thessalonians 4:13-end – Clive Boyle, All Souls'

¹³Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who
fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

¹⁴We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that
God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

¹⁵According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are



still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage each other with these words.

Sermon – Rev Sam Waako
‘The day of the Lord’

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 4.13–18, Amos 5.18–24

A story is told (adapted here to fit this context) of a family that were expecting a very important visitor to come visit their home. The family lived in a two roomed house, one of which was used as a sitting room and the other used as a bedroom.

The family were so excited to have this very important visitor coming to visit them, and they did everything to make sure that they were ready to host this person. But given that the visitor was not expected to be staying overnight, they only cleaned, tidied up and prepared the sitting room where they expected to host the visitor. So, every mess cleaned/tidied up from the sitting room was chucked into the bedroom, alongside other mess that was already in the bedroom. An hour to the visit, the sitting room was as clean as ever was, spotless in fact, smelt so nice and fresh and now they were ready to host.

Soon, the visitor arrived, and they were received with so much joy and excitement and were swiftly ushered to the sitting room, just in case they didn't stumble into the bedroom. But the joy and excitement quickly turned into unexpected 'horror' when the visitor requested to have a lie down, given that they had been travelling from a long distance and were now having a migraine!

I wonder if in anyway we can relate to this story. In our reading in Amos, we find the Israelites looking forward to 'the day of the Lord.' In their context, on this great day, the Israelites expected God to appear in salvic glory and destroy all its enemies, especially bring destruction to the Assyrian army that had besieged them. To them, they assumed the

day of the Lord would be a day of deliverance from their enemies and restoration of God's promises to Israel. And so just like with the family earlier, they looked forward to it with great expectation. And to them, they thought they were preparing for this day, with what turned out to be religious practices that were devoid of any righteousness and justice.

These people were calling for the day of the Lord, thinking it would bring an end to their troubles~ But God says, through Amos, 'You don't know what you are calling for, for this day brings Judgement, which in turn comes with punishment for sin. Amos goes on to say, that if you think this day will bring you refuge, then you are like someone who runs away from a lion only to encounter a bear, like someone who enters a house for refuge only to be bitten by a snake. Amos warns them, and warns us today, that this day (unless they change their ways, our ways) would bring great sorrow and distress (woe).

And in our context, and the wider context for Israel as well, 'The day of the Lord' is the day of Jesus second coming, when God will come in Judgement. And those who will be found to be faithful, this day will bring light not darkness, will be glorious, bringing deliverance and blessing. For the unfaithful, the warning is stark, the bible warns that it will be a day of darkness and gloom.

I wonder whether like me, you have had times when you have asked yourself, 'What the return of Christ will be like!' Do we look forward to that day? When I was younger, thinking of this day used to bring a lot of fear to me, in fact I had dream after dream where I found myself 'missing out on the cut' when Christ returned. And this was also not helped when my mother took us to see a play called 'heaven's gates and hells flames.' Watching this play just increased my fear for this day of the Lord. But, as believers, this day should give us hope rather than fear.

In our study of the Apostle Paul, just like Jesus, we find often he spoke of the return of Christ, fortunately not to instil fear, not to satisfy our curiosity, not to give us a timeline of future events, but he writes verses such as the text in 1 Thessalonians to spur us on, to encourage us to persist in our journey of faith with God.

The reality is that the day of the Lord is coming/will come. The question is, 'When the Lord comes, will you be ready? When the day of the Lord comes, shall we be ready?'

In our story at the beginning, the family thought they were ready to host this very important visitor, but when the visitor showed up, they quickly realised they were not ready. The Israelites that Amos warns, had a misguided sense of security from the empty worship they were giving God through their religious feasts, offerings and assemblies and yet none of this had any impact on the social and personal righteousness of the people, let alone on God.

The Israelites were ardent worshippers but unfortunately without corresponding concern for Justice especially. And this to God is hollow worship. And so Amos warns the Israelites and warns us as well, that God will reject all these religious practices because they are not attached to matters of Justice and righteousness especially for God's people. Religious activities without Justice and righteousness are empty to God.

It's very easy to put on a show (our 'sitting rooms', Israelites empty worship), and yet the other reality that people do not see ('the bedroom') God still sees. The Psalms remind us daily that God has searched us, deep down in our hearts, He knows the truth. We can do all these visible things that man will see, But God sees beyond just the physical

Preparing for the day of the Lord is seeking the things of God, things that impress God and not man, and we see that justice is one of them, especially on this day of remembrance when we remember those who fought for Justice so that we could have peace. Paul further reminds us, that death is not the end of the story after all, when Christ returns, when the day of the Lord comes, we that have been found in Him and He in us, will be re-united, no more suffering, no more death, just the glorious expectation of a joyful re-union.

And the best preparation I can make for this day, is to expect it every day, have my house clean, both the 'sitting room' and the 'bedroom.' When we seek to do so, Christ return will shape our behaviour, attitudes and thoughts. Scripture constantly calls us to live holy and godly lives as we look forward to the day of God. This in turn means,

right belief and right action. Worship then means all of our lives, not just in Church but also in our work places, in our communities, in our social places and in all our every day lives.

If we believe and trust in the Lord, looking forward to this day, the day of the Lord, should fill us with hope and not fear, because if we are found to be faithful, we shall be re-united with God.

Hymn **691 This is the Day**

This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day
that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord hath made.
This is the day, this is the day
when He rose again,
when He rose again.
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.

This is the day
when He rose again,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
when He rose again.
This is the day, this is the day
when the Spirit came,
when the Spirit came.
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.
This is the day
when the Spirit came,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
when the Spirit came.

Words by Les Garrett
Music arranged by Roland Fudge

Affirmation of faith *(We stand to affirm our faith)*

**All Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe. Amen.**

Prayers – *Patrick Phillipps, All Souls'*

Merciful Father, at this time of reflection for us all, we ask for your compassion and understanding for all those who have suffered or continue to suffer as a result of the loss or injury of loved ones whilst serving this and other nations in the course of wars and conflict.

Thankfully few of us have had to undergo the sudden pain and agony of losing loved ones or watching them suffer whether physically or mentally in such circumstances. We give you and them our most humble thanks for their courage and sacrifice in serving us and our country over so many years.

Help us at this time to remember that whatever problems we ourselves may have, they gave so much for the sake of all of us and that we should never forget how much we remain in their debt.

We ask in all humility for your loving care and protection for those who even now are putting themselves at risk for the sake of each of us whether as a result of violence or other forms of danger. Be with them and us in the coming days and weeks.

We ask this in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Loving Father, as we all now enter into a further period of Lockdown, we pray for your strength and guidance for each one of us. We ask particularly for your compassion and understanding for all those who continue to suffer in mind or body as a result of the earlier period of isolation for whom a further period on their own will come as a very real challenge both mentally and physically. We remember those (and their families) who may have been preparing to undergo treatment in hospital who may now face further delay and anxiety as a result of the pandemic

We pray that our nation and our leaders at all levels will unite to support the new measures and especially those in particular need and that all of us, whatever our circumstances, will remain aware of others around us and be ready to help wherever we can.

Lord help us to follow the example of Your Son who suffered so grievously whilst on this earth but who despite everything retained his faith in You and his compassion for others.

We ask this in his most gracious name

Lord God, at this time when all of us are looking for hope for the future, we ask that you will bless the ongoing work of all those who are seeking to find new treatments and vaccines for those suffering in the

current pandemic. Give them skill, courage and patience in all that they do and in the difficult decisions which they may be called to take. We thank you for all those who are supporting them in their work and particularly those volunteers who are prepared to take part in the ongoing trials of vaccines and other treatments often at considerable risk to themselves

We ask this in Jesus' name,

God of all Love, we remember at this time all those in our church family who continue to suffer as a result of ill health. Be with them in the days ahead and help them to find your peace which passes all understanding and which you alone can provide. We remember especially Eileen and Peter Bliss, John Hunter, Catherine McCormack, Olive Park and Joy Starkey

Bless and comfort those who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones remembering especially the family and friends of Barbara Young and others known to any of us and whom we call to mind in a moment of quiet.

We ask this in the name of Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

In conclusion we close our prayers by saying together the prayer which Jesus himself taught us

The Lord's Prayer

**All 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 Commitment (*All Stand*)

**Leader Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and
 our fellow men and women; that we may help, encourage,
 and comfort others, and support those working for the
 relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the
 nations.**

**All Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves
to serve you and all mankind, in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom;
give us courage; give us hope;
and keep us faithful now and always Amen**

Hymn 428 Lord for the Years

Lord, for the years Your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world where men disown and doubt You,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without You:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us –
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith
Music by Michael Baughen
Music arranged by David Iliff

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Leader We remember before God, and commend to his safe keeping, those who have died for amid the tragedy of war. Those whom we knew and whose memory we treasure; those mourned by their loved ones and all who have lived and died in the service of the people of the world.



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.

All **We will remember them.**

The LAST POST is sounded

11.00am Two Minutes' Silence

The REVEILLE is sounded

The Laying of the Wreaths

The Kohima Epitaph

Reader When you go home,
Tell them of us and say:
For your tomorrow,
We gave our today.



Prayer Of Commemoration

All **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.

The National Anthem

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen!

Thy choicest gifts in store,
on her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign!
May she defend our laws,
and ever give us cause,
to sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen!

Blessing

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest,
to the church, the Queen, 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, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be
among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

All Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.