

Ardoch Parish Church

Sunday 8th November 2020

Rev Mairi Perkins welcomes everyone to this
Act of Remembrance



Mairi leads us in Prayer followed by the Lord's
prayer

Loving God

We are here to remember again the awful cost of war

To remember the millions

Who gave their lives for the cause of freedom

To remember the fear, the pain, the tragedy and the grief of
so many

We are here to remember all of this and so much more

Those who still mourn the loved ones they lost

Those whose lives even now are blighted by war
Those scarred in body, mind and spirit
Those for whom warfare has meant
Life can never ever be the same again

And we remember all those who strive for peace
Government and world leaders
United nations forces and diplomats
Pressure groups and just ordinary people who shout enough,
no more
All who in their different ways strive
To promote harmony between nations
Giving victims of war the opportunity
To live a normal life once more

Loving God
We remember today the cost of war
And the price of peace
Help us to go on remembering, tomorrow and every day
And to do all in our power to work for your kingdom here on
earth

Let us say together 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever.
Amen

Our first hymn is "I vow to thee my country"

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are peace.

Words: Cecil Spring-Rice, Music: Gustav Holst
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Alex Anderson reads from
Mica Chapter 4 v 1-5
1 Corinthians Chapter 15 v 50-55

Alex introduces the next hymn which is

“Beauty for Brokenness”

Beauty for brokenness Hope for despair
Lord, in the 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

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

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

Words & Music: Graham Kendrick © 1993 Make Way Music

The title of Mairi's Reflection is Lest we forget

Today is about Remembering.

Remembering the fallen.

Remembering the wounded and the broken.

Remembering those who were willing to serve in uniform and stand on the battle lines to defend something that many of us may not fully comprehend much less understand.

Today we pause to remember the fallen – those who lie in foreign battlefields far from the villages and hamlets they once called home, we are also challenge to balance our pride and our ego as we approach these moments of remembrance ...

It is easy to get caught up in the patriotism of the moment and wrap ourselves in the flag for, Queen and Country, and lose sight of the simple fact that Remembrance Day is not about the glory of the battle, it is not a celebration, it is about the horror of the battle and the quiet almost desperate prayer that echoes across time, that we may finally learn from our past, and not continue to repeat into the future ...

Remembrance Day is about our living memory ... but as important is our enduring hope for peace for the future.

Remembrance Day is about having the courage to live with that hope that the sacrifices of the past – the fallen – the broken – the wounded, those forever changed will help us find a better way ...

That is the lesson of remembrance day. To hear the story of the ordinary men and women who put on uniforms and who in their own opinions ultimately really didn't do anything extra-ordinary, but simply did what was ordered.

I remember hearing a veteran who dismissed the suggestion that his role in the raging battle of an April morning decades earlier constituted anything heroic ... he was simply a soldier doing what he was ordered, and he was lucky enough to survive while hundreds of others did not.

Many of those we make out to be heroes ever stood up and said "Look at me ..." Instead on Remembrance Day they quietly and very proudly wore the tiny red poppy and struggled to stand at attention, their quivering hand firmly held in a salute at the remembrance of brothers and sisters – literal and figuratively who gave everything they had in service on bloody battle fields decades earlier.

These men and women don't look for adulation .

Our task on days like this in our action of Remembrance is to remember that willingness to sacrifice ...

to remember those who risked so much ...

to remember those who should never be forgotten.

The balancing act we are called to live, is using our memories of the past without being overwhelmed by them and allowing them to be the place we reside

Perhaps today will be the day that Remembrance translates into doing.

Perhaps today is the day we who never went and never

fought will finally see the demands we made on generations past and present.

Perhaps today will be the day that we decide that sending future generations to die is our taking their lives for granted and proving ourselves to be unworthy of such sacrifice.

Perhaps today will be the day that we acknowledge that there is no greater love than to lay our lives down for other and no greater offense than to demand others to take lives on our behalf.

Perhaps today will be the day that we rise up and declare that the insatiable appetite of the grave will find no easy meal amongst our nations.

Perhaps today's minute of silence will finally be enough for us to actually remember..... and not repeat the failures that rob our brave sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, friends and neighbours of their humanity or their lives

In our remembrance today, and in the coming days – may we have the courage to learn from the past and to recreate the future as God yearns it to be.

Prayers of intercession

Almighty God we thank you today for all those
Who across the ages have been examples of courage
All whose words and actions
Have given inspiration to subsequent generations
We thank you for those who have had the courage
To stand up for their convictions, come what may
To fight against evil and injustice
Even at the cost of their own lives
To live out their faith and share it with others
In the face of bitter opposition
And especially this day we thank you
For those who displayed courage
In all the horror of war
Those who fought bravely
Who served faithfully

And who sacrificed so greatly
For the cause they believed in
We give thanks for the freedom we enjoy
Through their sacrifices we acknowledge again the debt we
owe them
And we remember, so that the lessons of the past
May not be forgotten

A minute's silence

The Tryst
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

Our closing hymn is "Remembrance Day"

O Lord, we look upon the past,
Rememb'ring those who went before.
Who heard the call and bore for us
The brutal, bloody face of war.
We think of them and think of you,
Who came to earth as one of us,
To share our pain and bear our wounds,
And make the final sacrifice.

O Lord, we look around today
And see a world in conflict still.
We pray those who strive for peace,
Who stand for truth or lives rebuild.
We weep with those whose hearts are scarred,
Whose way is hard, whose hope is weak.
To refugees whose homes are lost,
God of all comfort, comfort speak.

O Lord, we look ahead in hope

To see the dawning of the day
When swords are beaten into ploughs
And every tear is wiped away;
When wounds are healed and fear dispelled
And all who trust in you arise;
When Christ, the Prince of Peace, has come
And glory, glory fills the skies.

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Benediction

Now go with peace in your hearts. In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Intimations

On Sunday 15th & 22nd November we welcome Gordon Roy as our preacher on the pre recorded services.

Change to Private Prayer arrangements

As the days grow shorter and colder, the Kirk Session has decided not to open the Church for private prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays from this week onwards.

Proposed opening of Church for Sunday Worship

However, if Scottish Government's regulations permit the Kirk Session would like to arrange services for the season of Advent in the Church starting on 29th November at 12.00am. To comply with social distancing this enables the minister to be in the church as the congregation arrive. More details will be supplied in the coming weeks.

British Legion

The local British Legion Branch is organising a Remembrance event at the War Memorial on Wednesday 11th November at 11am.

Sadly due to Covid restrictions the Church of Scotland has advised Ministers that they are unable to attend a public act of remembrance this year. Please find our Remembrance service on our church web site this Sunday 8th November .
" We will remember them"

There will be a wreath and poppy cross laying ceremony at the memorial. Every name on the memorial will have a cross laid in their memory.

To conform with COVID19 rules, there will be yellow chalk marks for maintaining social distancing or you may stand on the grass in Gentlecroft.

As there is no door to door collection this year, you can donate to the Poppy Scotland through their website.

www.poppyscotland.org.uk

There are also poppies on sale in the Braco Shop and Braco Coffee.

A personal appeal from Ann Spiers

The Blythswood Shoebox Appeal is no longer being run out of Crieff. This gave me pause for thought.

Blythswood boxes went abroad to many countries, But what about our country? In view of Covid 19, people are losing jobs and their homes....why don't we give locally, as well.

So I contacted the Salvation Army in Stirling. I am a huge fan of the SA and have donated for many years. They will be delighted to cooperate by receiving gifts which they will distribute to needy families, the homeless, elderly in need, etc.

My plan is, in view of the Church being mainly closed, to collect at my house and when I have a fair amount I will deliver to Stirling. Gifts should be of warm socks, gloves, scarves etc. just like we put in the boxes...for all ages. Toiletries, toys for children, household items, etc. Please mark on your parcel the age group.

This not a scheme for getting rid of your junk .. it is Christmas and a time for Christian giving.

Please join me as you did with the Shoeboxes.

Thank you

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