

### A - An Order for Remembrance Sunday (2005)

#### INTRODUCTION:

This Order of Service has been prepared by a group representing the churches and convened through Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, working in partnership with the Royal British Legion and the Joint Liturgical Group. It is commended on behalf of the Churches by the presidents of CTBI and replaces the service which has been in use since 1968.

The service is an act of Christian worship. In most communities, however, it will be appropriate for honoured guests representing other religious faiths and systems of belief to be invited. They will decide for themselves in which parts of the service they can with integrity join; planners will need to be careful not to make assumptions. The promise to work for peace, which forms an important element towards the end of the service, is deliberately not cast in religious language, to make it easier for people of other faiths and belief systems to be able to share in it.

The service as presented provides the entire order for a brief public Service of Remembrance. It will last about twenty minutes. It can, however, also be used as part of a longer service: either an ecumenical occasion or the regular Sunday service of a local congregation. When a sermon or homily is required, it would follow the New Testament reading(s). If the service is leading into a celebration of the Eucharist or Holy Communion, the transition would normally take place after the Act of Commitment from this service and into the other at the Peace or Offertory. Hymns and additional readings can be added at appropriate places.

Bear in mind the practicalities. If microphones are limited, consider how many people might speak without losing continuity and how the microphone is to pass from one to another. If wreaths and tokens are to be laid, think through the logistics of where and how, in order to maintain dignity without drawing out the ceremony for too long. When producing a printed order of service, it is helpful to include a reminder to people to turn off their mobile phones, and a suggestion that, as they gather, they wait in silence, so that those wishing to pray or reflect may do so. If the range of people to be present, and any organizations they represent, is known, it is also helpful for this to be noted.

If the service is scheduled to allow the two-minute silence to be observed at 11am, pay particular attention to the timing. The "Gathering" element of the service, if not rushed, is likely to take around four minutes. It is therefore wise to schedule the service to begin at 10.55. If that is not possible, it is better to

omit most of the “Gathering” material than to miss the start of the silence at 11am.

## THE SERVICE

### GATHERING

*All gather in silence*

*The presiding minister reads one or more of the following sentences:*

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

I lift up my eyes to the hills –  
from whence will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
Who made heaven and earth.  
*Psalm 121.1-2*

This I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:  
the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning.  
*Lamentations 3.21-23*

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew  
their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary  
they shall walk and not faint.  
*Isaiah 40.31*

What does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?  
*Micah 6.8*

Local custom will determine whether standards are to be brought and presented. If so, this should happen before any words are spoken.

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*If several sentences are used, they may be interspersed with silence or music.*

*The amount of material used will need to take account of the time available. If used in full, the "Gathering" section takes roughly four minutes.*

*The presiding minister continues:*

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.

### REMEMBERING

*An older person says:*

They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old;  
age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.

*A younger person may reply:*

At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning,  
we will remember them.

*All affirm:*

**We will remember them.**

*The beginning of the two-minute silence may be signalled*

*Silence*

*The completion of the silence may be signalled*

*The following prayer is said:*

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.

*or*

*Note from Labarum:*

*this following prayer is printed in the appendix in the CTBI Booklet.*

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.

*The following hymn, or another that  
similarly expresses hope in God and  
trust for the future, may be sung:*

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home;

Beneath the shadow of thy throne  
thy saints have dwelt secure;

sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy 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 our years away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.

### LISTENING FOR THE WORD FROM GOD

*The reader says:*

*Hear these words from the New Testament*

*Either one or more of the following are read:*

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.  
*John 14:27*

The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.  
*James 3:17-18*

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.  
*1 John 1:5*

*or the following is read:*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

*Matthew 5:1-12*

### PRAYING TOGETHER

*Prayer is led:*

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace:

for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God;

May God give peace

**God give peace**

for those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;

May God give peace

**God give peace**

for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;

May God give peace

**God give peace**

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for civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;

May God give peace

**God give peace**

for peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free;

May God give peace

**God give peace**

for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.

May God give peace

**God give peace**

O God of truth and justice,  
we hold before you those whose memory we cherish,  
and those whose names we will never know.  
Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world,  
and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.  
As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future;  
for you are the source of life and hope,  
now and for ever.

**Amen..**

*Or else this form of intercession may be used*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the leaders of the nations, that you will guide them in the ways of freedom, justice and truth.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who serve in the armed forces of the Crown, that they may have discipline and discernment, courage and compassion.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our enemies, and those who wish us harm,  
that you may turn the hearts of all to kindness and friendship.

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the wounded and the captive, the grieving and the homeless,  
that in all their trials they may know your love and support.

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Most Holy God and Father,  
hear our prayers for all who strive for peace,  
and all who yearn for justice.  
Help us, who today remember the cost of war,  
to work for a better tomorrow;  
and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict,  
bring us all, in the end,  
to the peace of your presence;  
through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

*All join together in 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**

RESPONDING IN HOPE AND COMMITMENT

*Representative and other members of the  
public come forward to lay wreaths, light*



*candles or offer other symbols of remembrance and hope, such as single flowers or crosses.*

*The Kohima Epitaph is said:*

When you go home  
tell them of us and say,  
for your tomorrow  
we gave our today.

*A hymn may be sung*

*The act of commitment is made:*

Let us commit ourselves to responsible  
living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

**We will**

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

**We will**

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

**We will**

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in  
us that have not yet been cast out by love:  
May we accept the hope you have placed  
in the hearts of all people,  
And live lives of justice, courage and mercy;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer.

**Amen**

*or*

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.

*The National Anthem(s) are sung*

*The following blessing is used:*

God grant to the living grace,  
to the departed rest,  
to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth  
[or to the Church, the State]  
and all people,  
unity, peace and concord,  
and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting.  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all  
and remain with you always.

**Amen**

### **B - An Order for Remembrance Sunday (1968)**

All stand while the minister reads

#### **1 THE INTRODUCTION**

We are here to worship Almighty God, whose purposes are good; whose power sustains the world he has made; who loves us, though we have failed in his service; who gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world; who by his Holy Spirit leads us in his way.

As we give thanks for his great works, we remember those who have lived and died in his service and in the service of others; we pray for all who suffer through war and are in need; we ask for his help and blessing that we may do his will, and that the whole world may acknowledge him as Lord and King.

#### **2 HYMN**

### 3 LESSON

### 4 HYMN

### 5 ACT OF PENITENCE

The minister says

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings  
of the world;

its pride, its selfishness, its greed;  
its evil divisions and hatreds.

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

After a short silence, all say

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word, and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The minister stands and says

Almighty God, have mercy upon us,  
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and keep us in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### 6 INTERCESSION

Special intentions may be inserted at appropriate points.

The minister says

Let us pray for the peace of the world:  
for statesmen and rulers, that they may have wisdom to know and courage to do what is right ...

for all who work to improve international relationships, that they may find the true way to reconcile people of different race, colour, and creed ...

and for men and women the world over, that they may have justice and freedom, and live in security and peace ...

Here follows a short silence.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Most gracious God and Father,  
in whose will is our peace:  
turn our hearts and the hearts of all to yourself,  
that by the power of your Spirit  
the peace which is founded on righteousness  
may be established throughout the whole world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of war:

for the injured and the disabled,  
for the mentally distressed,  
and for those whose faith in God and man has been  
weakened or destroyed ...

for the homeless and refugees,  
for those who are hungry,  
and for all who have lost their livelihood and security ...

for those who mourn their dead,  
those who have lost husband or wife,  
children or parents,  
and especially for those who have no hope in Christ  
to sustain them in their grief ...

Here follows a short silence.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
infinite in wisdom, love, and power:  
have compassion on those for whom we pray;  
and help us to use all suffering  
in the cause of your kingdom;  
through him who gave himself for us on the cross,  
Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

If there is a collection, it is taken during the hymn which follows.

### 7 HYMN

### 8 SERMON

### 9 HYMN

### ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

10 All stand while the minister says

Let us remember before God,  
and commend to his sure keeping  
those who have died for their country in war;  
those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure;  
and all who have lived and died  
in the service of mankind.

Here follows **The Silence.**

Then the minister says

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.**

### ACT OF COMMITMENT

11 The minister, or some other person appointed, says

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 say together

**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.**

### **12 THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **13 NATIONAL ANTHEM**

### **14 BLESSING**

*Note on the use of the service and the observance of the Two Minutes  
Silence*

This order has been prepared for use at any time on Remembrance Sunday, not necessarily when the Two Minutes Silence is observed. If it is used in the morning it can be so timed that the Act of Remembrance is reached at 11 a.m. without any alteration of the order. Alternatively, the Act of Remembrance may be taken out of the order and used first at 11 a.m. followed by the rest of the service. Where a brief observance is required, as at a War Memorial, the Act of Remembrance may be used, followed by the Act of Commitment, the Lord's Prayer, and the Blessing. If desired, the Act of Remembrance may take the form printed below.

### **ACT OF REMEMBRANCE (Alternative Form)**

All stand while the minister says

Let us remember before God,  
and commend to his sure keeping:  
those who have died for their country in war;  
those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure;  
and all who have lived and died  
in the service of mankind.

The list of those to be remembered by name may then be read.

Then may be said

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.

And all repeat

**We will remember them.**

Here follows **The Silence**.

Then the Last Post and the Reveille may be sounded.

Then the minister says

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.**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS**

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM may be sung in the following form.

**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.**

**Nor on this land alone—  
But be God's mercies known  
From shore to shore.  
Lord, make the nations see  
That men should brothers be,  
And form one family  
The wide world o'er.**

THIS THANKSGIVING may be used.

We offer to almighty God our thanksgiving for the many blessings with which he has enriched our lives.

For the Queen and her family, and all who under her bear the responsibility of government:

**Thanks be to God.**

For those who serve in the Armed Forces of the Crown on sea and land and in the air:

**Thanks be to God.**

For doctors, nurses, chaplains, and all who minister to those in need or distress:

**Thanks be to God.**

For the unity of our people within the Commonwealth:

**Thanks be to God.**

For the sacrifices made, especially in two world wars, whereby our peace has been preserved:

**Thanks be to God.**

For the Royal British Legion:

**Thanks be to God.**



THIS BLESSING may be used.

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**