

## Prayers:

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**

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**

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**

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**

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

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.**

## **The Lord's Prayer:**

Hymn: StF 707 / H&P 776 **Make me a channel of your peace**

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, 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**

*Source: Prayers based on an Anglican Remembrance Day Service*

This service sheet was prepared by Rev Marie Beard.

# **Darlington District Worship at Home Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021**



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

Hymn: StF 1 / H&P 1 **All people that on earth do dwell**

God of life, from generation to generation  
you have held all creation in the palm of your hand;  
friend and foe alike, all held within your mercy.  
It is with uncertainty we look to you this day -  
a day so deeply stained with the memory of death, loss  
and the repetitive story of human violence and folly.

Hold close to your heart this day all those for whom  
it brings the reopening of past wounds,  
and the tasting again of the bitterness of loss.  
May the persistence of your healing love  
continue its work in the lives of individuals and communities  
damaged, devastated and destroyed by war.

Grant to us the ingenuity and strength for a true leap of faith,  
that we may leave behind forever the folly of thinking that in the  
last resort violence will solve our problems. **Amen.**

*Source: Roots for Worship*

Reading: [Mark 13:1-8](#)

Reflection: Today is Remembrance Sunday, when we think of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in their actions and duties to secure the just and peaceful freedom which our society enjoys today. We think especially of those who fought in the World Wars at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century which involved so many nations it was considered a global situation. We rejoice in the peace we now enjoy, but sadly we recognise that peace is not the situation enjoyed by everyone.

There is plenty in our news reports to trouble us. We hear of wars and rumours of wars, the challenges of climate change, global pandemics, plastic pollution and perhaps we wonder, 'Is this it? The end of humanity as we know it? Is this the time promised? The end of the world is nigh?'

Soon we will enter the season of Advent when we are exhorted to be ready for such a time, as well as being prepared to celebrate the coming of God's own Son into the world. In the Bible passage today, Jesus challenges what and who we put our trust in.

The disciples are impressed by the magnificent stones, the great building of the temple of Jerusalem. Of course, this is not the first temple, it has been abandoned and suffered destruction before, but it has been rebuilt, and at this time, even with Roman occupation, the temple seems as solid and permanent as it has ever done. 'Don't be fooled', Jesus tells his disciples. This will all come crumbling down, and it did in AD70. In other gospels Jesus refers to the rebuilding in 3 days and we recognise that this is not just about the physical temple, but about his own dying and rising and the whole new era of worship and relationship with God. No longer dependent upon the sacrificial system of the temple but focused upon the once for all sacrifice made by Jesus in whom we now place our trust, who enables us to come into God's presence and worship.

I love to visit churches of all shapes and sizes. The great grand cathedrals such as Durham, the little chapels scattered across the Tynedale Circuit where I live and work. All have been built 'To the

Glory of God' and are filled with stories of the faith of God's people, and it is difficult when we see some of these closing after the challenges of the past 2 years and much more. Perhaps as we look around we wonder at what is going on, where is God, in our church, in our world?

It is easy to read the passage from Mark's gospel and miss what for me is the important message. We focus on the grand stones and how they will fall, the words of warning of Jesus, not to be led astray, the scary thoughts of wars and rumours of wars which much take place. But in the middle of it all Jesus says 'don't be alarmed', in other translations 'don't be terrified', 'don't be afraid'.

How? Why? Surely it would be our natural reaction to be afraid. But if we are afraid, then perhaps we are focused upon the wrong thing. It isn't the grand stones, it isn't the challenges and problems, our focus should always be on God, who will give us the peace and reassurance of His presence by the Holy Spirit.

That's not to say we should ignore the challenges of course, and Jesus tells us elsewhere 'Blessed are the peacemakers', there is plenty for us to do. But we should not be paralysed by fear, we need not be afraid, because our God is greater than all of this. Amen

Hymn: StF 132 / H&P 358 **O God our help in ages past**

Act of Remembrance:

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.**