



Bible  
Society

# Remembrance

Sunday 11 November 2018



## Introduction

One hundred years ago today, the guns of the Great War fell silent for the last time. It was the end of a conflict that scarred the nations that took part very deeply. In 2014 we marked the war's beginning, and we have commemorated its significant events during the last four years. Now we remember its ending.

These years of remembrance have helped new generations understand more of what their grandparents and great-grandparents went through. The hardships they faced, the courage they showed and the faith they shared have become more real to us.

But as we reflect on the end of the war, we also want to look forward in hope. Hope is deeply Christian. It springs above all from our belief in the resurrection of Christ from the dead: if Christ is raised, nothing good is impossible.

Every day we're reminded that what was supposed to be 'the war that will end war' did not lead to that: human pride, greed and folly has led to millions of deaths since 1918. But the Bible looks forward to a time when our hope for peace will be fulfilled. It speaks of the 'old order of things' passing away and God making 'all things new'. And it calls on Christians to live today in the light of their hope for tomorrow.

So, in gratitude for the past and in hope for the future, we worship God today.

## Opening hymn

**Prayer:** God of peace, we come before you today in sorrow, in gratitude and in hope. We grieve for those who have died in war, for those who have been injured in body, mind and spirit, and for those who have been bereaved.

A century after the end of the Great War, we acknowledge again the failures that led to that war, and the failures that followed it. We acknowledge the flaws in the human heart that have led us too often to choose the path of violence instead of the way of peace. We grieve for the millions of lives lost or ruined because of human sin.

We acknowledge too our debt to those who fought for us and paid the price for our freedom in their bodies and souls. We thank you for their courage and their devotion, to their comrades and their country. And we thank you for those who did not fight: for women who served at home or in hospitals, and for the conscientious objectors who witnessed to peace at great personal cost.

And we thank you for the Christian teaching that warfare is not your desire for the world; that peace between peoples and nations is possible; and that one day you will wipe every tear from every eye, and make all things new.

**Reader:** *During World War One more than 18 million people were killed and 23 million were wounded. From Britain, 6 million men fought, 1.7 million were wounded, 65,000 were shell-shocked, 170,000 became prisoners and 772,000 died. No community was untouched.*

**What was the experience of your own community?** Have a member of the congregation read the names from your local war memorial aloud.

**Have a member of the congregation** read the story of Theo Chadburn, Frank Viner or another story featured on Bible Society's [website](#).

**Reader:** *The Bible recognises the reality of war. But it does not accept that war is desirable or normal. Peace is the promised new reality. In Revelation 21.3-5 John sees a perfect world from which everything false, corrupt and violent is banished and all wounds are healed. Here, in words, music and pictures, is a vision of God's new order of things.*



[Play video](#) 

*Reader: God says, 'These words are trustworthy and true.' The Christian hope is not just for rescued individuals, but for a redeemed creation. God will make all things new – and he is starting now.*

### A responsive prayer

God of new beginnings, we pray for places where conflict has lasted too long, where peacemaking has failed in the face of human pride, greed and fear. May the old order pass away and a new world come to be, in which the fear of violence is history.

May your kingdom come and your will be done:  
**On earth as in heaven.**

God of healing, we pray for the broken-hearted: those who are scarred by the things they have done, or the things that have been done to them. We long for an end to mourning, crying and pain, when every tear shall be wiped away. And may we your people learn to be comforters of the comfortless.

May your kingdom come and your will be done:  
**On earth as in heaven.**

God of peace, we pray for peacemakers: for those who refuse to accept that violence is necessary, whose work is hardly noticed and who win no medals. We thank you for the vision of a world where swords are beaten into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks, and no one harms or destroys anyone. Teach us to love peace, we pray.

May your kingdom come and your will be done:  
**On earth as in heaven.**

God who says, 'I am making everything new', we pray that you will renew us. Give us hope in your future when the world is dark; give us confidence in your truth when we're tempted to doubt; give us joy in your presence when we feel we're alone.

May your kingdom come and your will be done:  
**On earth as in heaven.**

## Hymn

Sentences from Scripture may be read. Choose from: Psalm 46; Psalm 90.1-5; Isaiah 25.6-8; Romans 8.38-39; Revelation 7.9-12.

## The Two-Minute Silence

*Friends, let us remember in silence before God all those who have died in war. And let us today think especially of those who died in the Great War, and remembering all they suffered, commit ourselves again to work for peace.*

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.

**Reading:** Isaiah 2.2-4.

- Hymn
- Sermon (see notes)
- Hymn
- Benediction

## Suggested hymns

O God, our help in ages past  
O God of love, O king of peace  
Judge eternal, throned in splendour  
Behold, the mountain of the Lord  
Christ is the world's true light  
Grant us your peace, for you alone can bend  
Where cross the crowded ways of life  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me  
Let us sing the King Messiah  
Your kingdom come, O God  
A safe stronghold our God is still

## Suggested songs

Faithful one, so unchanging  
Beauty for brokenness  
Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
Who can sound the depths of sorrow



*'He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.'*

Revelation 21.4 (ESV)