

Church Together

Let There Be Peace On Earth

10th November 2024

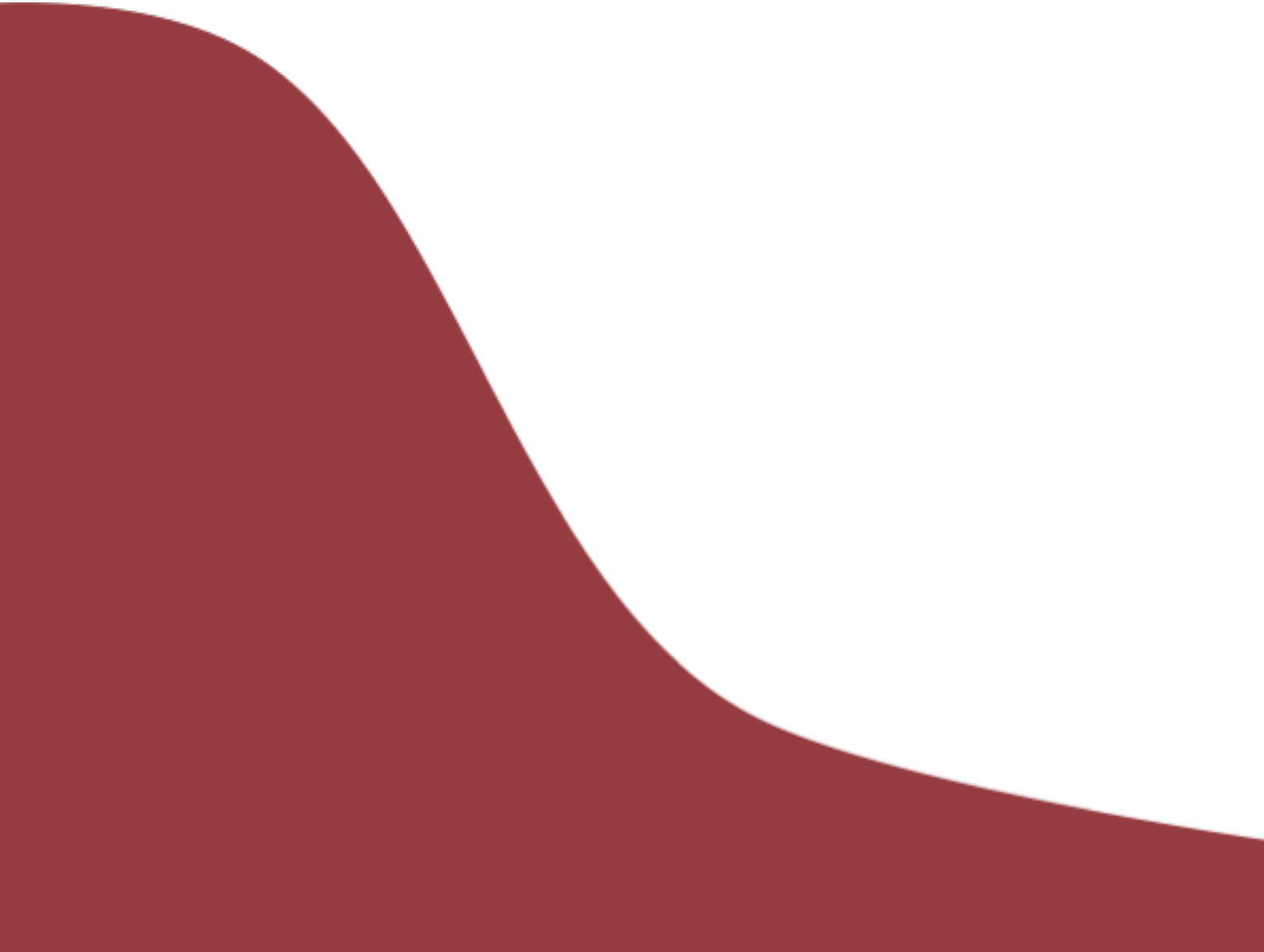


Welcome

In today's Service will be looking at: **Micah 4 v. 1 - 5 & Revelation 21 v. 1 - 7**

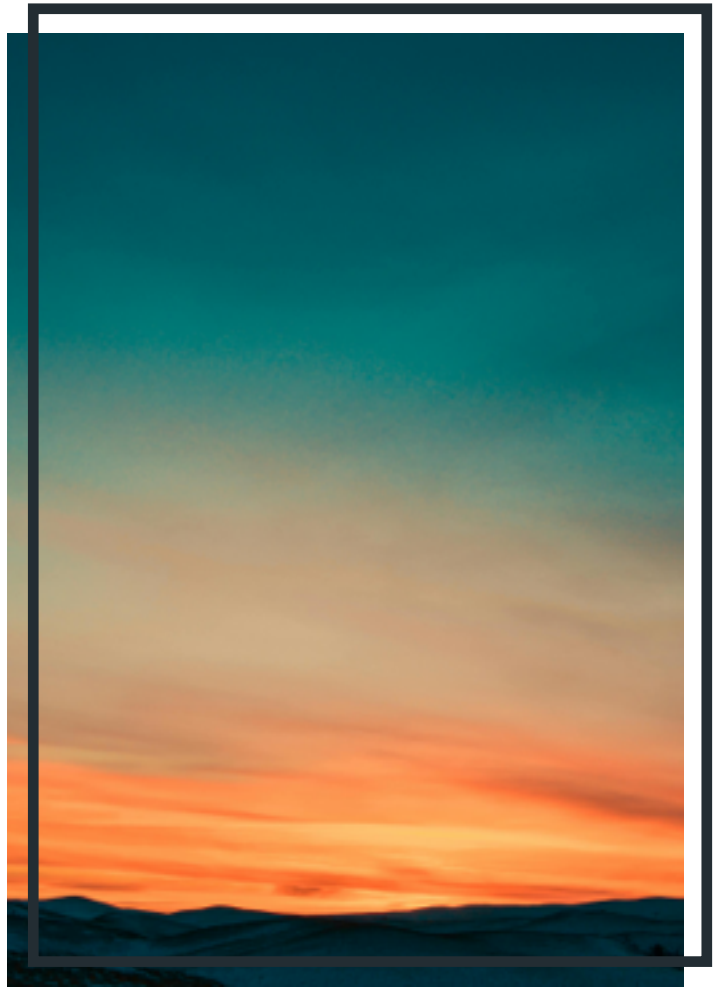
The theme for our service today is: **Let There Be Peace On Earth**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for this service and that you would be able to **On This Remembrance Sunday Know The Peace That Only Jesus Brings**



Reflective Tune

BBC - BBC Philharmonic, Nimrod
- Edward Elgar



Call To Worship

Psalm 100 v. 1 – 5 NLT

Shout for joy to the Lord, O earth!

Worship the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing with joy.

Acknowledge that the Lord is God!

He made us, and we are his.

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him and bless his name.

For the Lord is good.

His unfailing love continues forever,

And his faithfulness continues to
each generation.

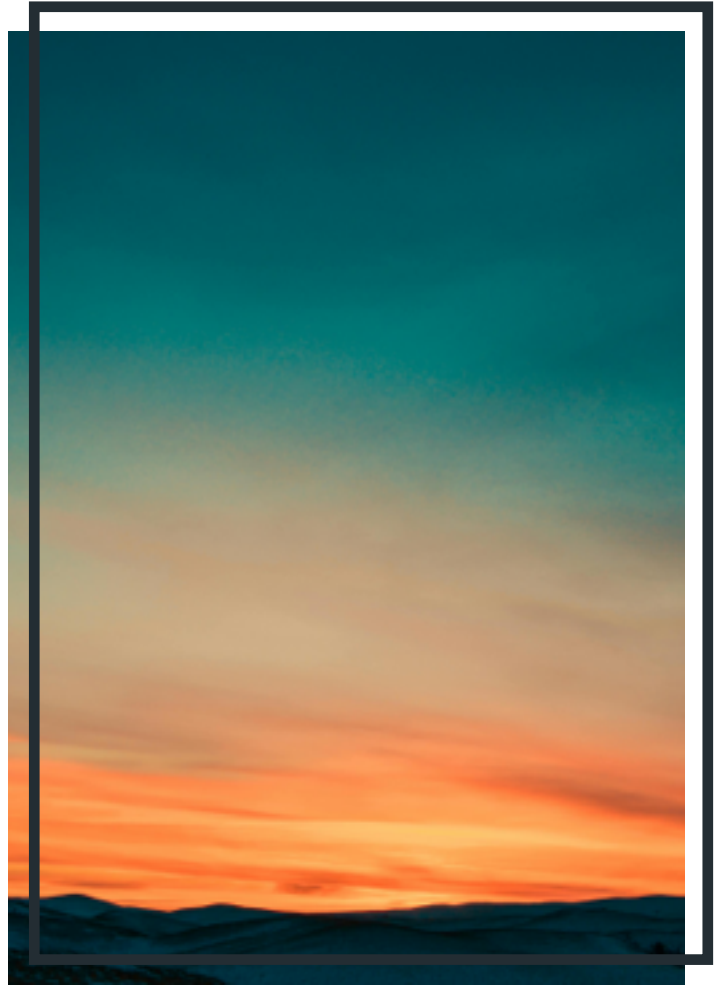
What Is Remembrance Day?

Also known as Armistice Day, Remembrance Day marks the end of World War 1 which was at 11.00 am on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. However, the day commemorates people who died in all wars such as World War 2, the Falklands and the Gulf War. When the clock strikes 11.00 am a two - minute silence is observed to remember the brave people who have lost their lives in war and conflict.

The second Sunday in November is Remembrance Sunday. People often gather at cenotaphs, places of worship and memorials across the country, as well as abroad, to lay poppy wreaths and to think about people in the armed forces who have lost their lives.

Song Suggestion

Abide With Me



The Memory Game For Remembrance Sunday

Gather random objects together from around the house, church, or whatever you can find.

Use fewer objects for younger children and more objects for older children.

Place the objects onto a table or a tray.

Study the objects for 30 seconds.

Cover up the tray with a napkin or cloth.

Can you remember every single item on the tray?

This is a game that encourages us to remember and this is what we want to do on Remembrance Sunday!

Bible Reading

Micah 4 v. 1 – 5 NIV

The mountain of the Lord

4 In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.

2 Many nations will come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.'

The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. 3 He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more. 4 Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig-tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken. 5 All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

Song Suggestion

Guide Me O Thou Great
Redeemer



A Prayer For Peacemakers

History can inspire us or trap us.

Walls can protect us or divide us.

Words can encourage us or inflame us.

Power can free us or destroy us.

Touch can comfort us or violate us.

Peace can be shared with us or withheld from us.

Gracious God, on this Remembrance Sunday, when we remember past and present conflicts, we pray for the divided peoples of the world, that leaders, governments and each one of us may use our resources, our opportunities and our lives in the service of reconciliation and of peace, for the sake of our own and future Generations and to the glory of your name we pray.

Amen.

An Act Of Remembering

As we approach 11.00am we will be sharing together in a one minute silence on this Remembrance Sunday as a mark of respect for all those who have given of their lives in the course of war and conflicts around the world.

During this time we will stand and bow our heads in silence; remembering the bravery and courage of those who gave their lives for us to have freedom and peace.

After we have spent this time in silence we will listen to the tune to '**The Last Post**'.

This will be followed by the reading of the poem: '**For The Fallen**'.

Last Post & Rouse

For The Fallen

***Poem by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869 – 1943),
published in The Times newspaper on 21 September
1914.***

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

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.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,

Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

An All Age Prayer For Remembrance Sunday

Lord, we are saddened at the thought of war, of the soldiers who must fight and all those people who are killed. Today we remember their sacrifice with great sadness.

We give thanks for what they did for us.

We also remember that they won for us a victory, that without their bravery these wars may have been lost, and our lives could have been so very different, without the freedom we so much enjoy.

We give thanks for what they did for us.

We are saddened at the thought of your suffering, that you, too, had to be a great hero, and walk to Jerusalem, be arrested, tried and killed on that horrible cross.

We thank you for what you did for us.

We also remember that you won for us a victory, that on Easter morning you rose again, and helped us to over-

come our human nature, so that we might rise again with you and know your peace.

We thank you for what you did for us.

Amen.

Bible Reading

Revelation 21 v. 1 – 7 NIV

A new heaven and a new earth

21 Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling - place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death" or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

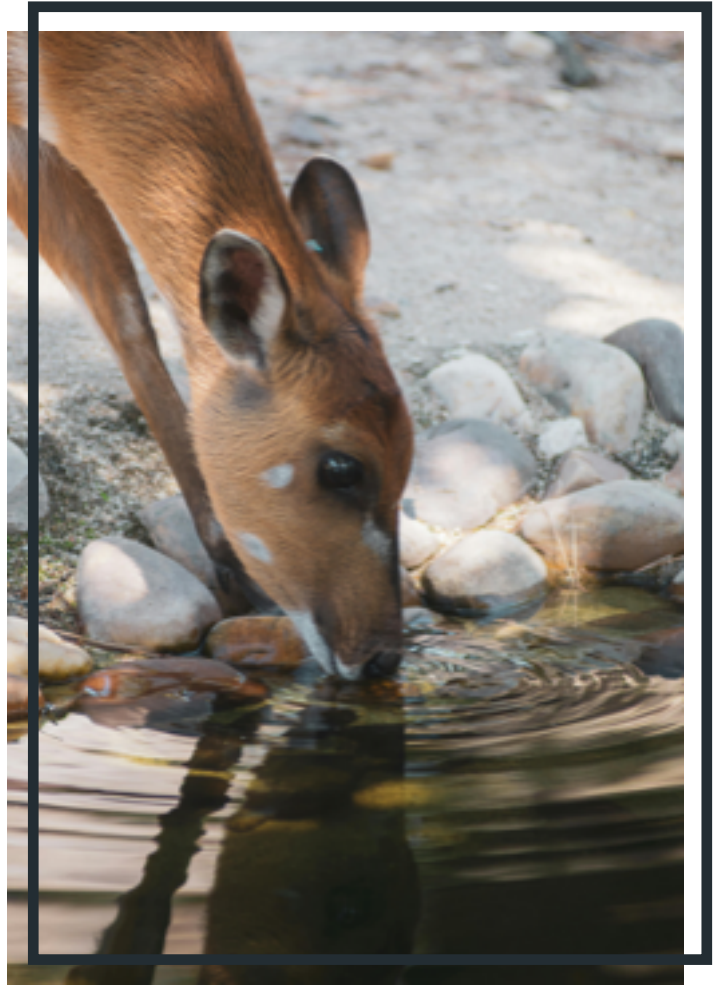
5 He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'

6 He said to me: 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Song Suggestion

Lord For The Years, Your Love Has
Kept And Guided



Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

No matter wherever you are, whatever you do, whoever you are, together we can grow as Church Together here at Salendine Nook.

If you feel that your are able to, then please keep on giving with a cheerful and grateful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.



Church Together

Thought – Part A

Today is Remembrance Sunday.

Remembrance Day (also known as Armistice Day) itself is on 11th November each year. On Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday we remember all those whose lives have been affected by wars and conflict since World War 1, and those who have died. The first Remembrance Day was held on 11 November 1919 – the year after World War 1 ended.

We honour on Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday the Armed Forces and all those whose lives have been affected by war and conflict. On these days people often wear a Poppy. So why do we see lots of poppies at Remembrance time? Poppies were one of the only flowers that grew on the battlefields of World War 1 and became adopted as a symbol for veterans' organisations – such as the Royal British Legion.

To clear up any confusion, let's take a quick history lesson to better understand more about what Remembrance Day is.

During The First World War (1914 – 1918), which many referred to as The Great War, a total of around 40 million lives were lost as the 'Allied Forces' of The British Empire, France and a whole host of others including the colonies they occupied, defeated the 'Central Powers' of Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire (modern day Turkey).

King George V initiated the tradition in 1919, the year the war officially ended with the signing of The Treaty of Versailles in France.

Since its origins, Remembrance Day has grown into a huge commemoration, particularly in the UK, which honours the dead from all wars and armed conflicts the country has been involved in. These include World War Two (1939 - 1945), The Gulf War (1990 - 1991) The Iraq War (2003 - 2011), and the War in Afghanistan (2001 - 2021), and the Troubles in The North of Ireland (1968- 1998).

At 11.00am on the 11th November each year, there is usually two minutes of silence held to reflect the loss of life, tragedy of war, and sacrifice of the soldiers who fought. (This also marks the moment all those involved agreed to set down their weapons, even though the war didn't officially end until the following year).

As well as this, you might hear the song 'The Last Post', a military song played on a Bugle that traditionally brought a day at battle to an end and is usually played at military funerals in the modern day. You may also hear people reading a poem called 'In Flanders Fields', which was named after the infamous World War 1 battlefields in Flanders, an area in modern day Belgium and France.

REMEMBRANCE DAY



WORD SEARCH



E	L	E	V	E	N	T	H	D	I	A
M	E	D	A	L	R	O	Y	E	C	E
E	R	E	M	E	M	B	E	R	R	S
N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R	K	O	O
Y	E	B	I	Q	C	D	D	O	S	L
Q	A	S	I	L	E	N	C	E	S	D
S	Q	E	F	E	D	F	Z	W	K	I
P	O	P	P	Y	J	A	D	A	X	E
P	A	R	M	Y	P	A	I	R	D	R

War Cross Army Poppy Medal Soldier
November Remember Eleventh Silence



Church Together

Thought – Part B

When we remember those who gave their lives so freely for freedom and liberty, the Bible reminds us that peace is often at the heart of how God wants his people to live. The passages from **Micah 4 v. 1 – 5** and **Revelation 21 v. 1 – 7** are timely reminders to us that we need to let God's kingdom bring His Eternal peace on earth. So, let's look at what both these short passages have to say to us on this Remembrance Sunday.

Jesus told his followers to turn the other cheek, to love their enemies, to pray for their persecutors and to work for reconciliation. He did this, knowing very well how dangerous this might be: he practiced what he preached, and it led him to a cross. But he told his followers not to avoid this; they were to take up their own cross and follow him on the same path. Even in the Old Testament, we get glimpses of God's dream for his people, a dream of a time when there will be an end to war, and when people will commit themselves to learning God's ways.

In this passage from **Micah 4 v. 1 – 5** we can see that the time will come when the nations of the world will acknowledge that the one true God is real, and because of this they will decide to come to him and learn from him.

In this vision Micah lifts the hope that one day there will be a universal acknowledgement of the one true God – a God of the whole earth, the creator of all. This was a

revolutionary thought in Micah's time. People were used to the idea of every nation having their own god or gods; those gods would go with them in battle and give them victory over their enemies – unless, of course, the enemies' gods happened to be stronger than them!

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught us to pray: 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven'. This is not a natural prayer for human beings to pray. We'd far rather pray: 'My kingdom come, my will be done, on earth as it is in heaven'. Nations do the same thing; they tend to champion their own sovereignty and to refuse to submit to anyone else unless forced to do so by superior military might.

We are told in **Micah 4 v. 4** that when God's kingdom comes in all its fulness then everyone will live together in peace. Now here's something interesting: God doesn't say that in his future kingdom there will be no disputes.

Disputes aren't necessarily a problem; it's the stubborn and self-centred approach that says: 'This is the way I want it, and this is the way it's going to be, come hell or high water'! That's what causes disagreements between nations to end up in conflict and bloodshed, too.

But the day will come, Micah says, when instead of everyone being determined to get what they want, everyone will instead be determined to listen to what God wants. So, what does that mean for us here in 2024?

Micah 4 goes on to say that people will have a new preoccupation with peace, and a new safety and security. Micah talks about people taking swords and beating them into ploughs and taking spears and beating them into pruning hooks – or, today, we might say, taking missiles and weapons of mass destruction

and converting them into useful tools or machinery! Even more impressive, are the words: 'neither shall they learn war anymore'. (**Micah 4 v. 3**). Wars don't just happen on the spur of the moment; they are possible because people learn the art of war – Micah dares us to consider an alternative: peace!

Have you ever thought what the world would be like if people decided not to fight and create war anymore? What would our world be like if people decided instead to take all the time and energy and money they used to spend on warfare, and use it instead to learn how the world can live in peace? Imagine nations taking all the money that they spend on armaments and using it instead on humanitarian aid! And the result of this, Micah says, will be safety and security.

Micah looks to God's vision for the future and sees a world in which each person and each nation truly and sincerely seeks the Lord and commits themselves to learning his ways; a world in which people and nations submit their disagreements to God's guidance and abide by his ruling; a world in which weapons are converted into farm implements and no one studies war anymore; a world in which everyone is safe and secure and no one makes them afraid.

All of this sounds like a wonderful dream, something that gives us hope for the future and this is where the problem lies. People have been willing to pay lip service to it as a vision of the future, because if they banish it to a time that's still to come, they don't have to do anything about it now. Micah warns the people of God that the time to make peace, to care for the poor, to live by the teaching of the one true God in every aspect of our lives – that

time is not one day in the future, but now.

Jesus makes the same challenge to us today as Christians. In a world which continues to hate and kill and divide the world into friend and enemy, he calls us to take the risk of looking at the enemy and calling them our friend – reaching out to them, praying for them, blessing them, doing good to them. In a world in which strike leads to counter – strike and bombing leads to bombing, and so on and so on, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, he calls us to take the risk of doing something different.

Before we finish these thoughts this morning, on this Remembrance Sunday let's just think briefly about the passage from **Revelation 21 v. 1 – 7**.

These verses are full of hope for the future. The scene that is portrayed in **Revelation 21 v. 1 – 7** is yet to happen! But when it does what joy and peace it will bring to all who live the way that Jesus has asked them to live.

Ever since the first sin in the Garden of Eden, God has been working to restore His earth to its original perfection. He even sent His Son, Jesus to suffer and die to overcome the power of sin and death and to begin the process of healing. It is God's plan to make old things new! By following his will for our lives, by living in peace and not making war with each other, we become part of God's plan of restoration. In these verses we see that God will restore the earth and satisfy everyone who belongs to him. This passage shows us what it will be like when Christ returns. But by believing in Jesus today, we can begin that restoration process in ourselves and in others.

On this Remembrance Sunday, let us pray that the world will heed that call – but let's be determined to heed it

ourselves first, whether others do or not.

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.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
And the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

What Does The Red Poppy Mean?

The red poppy is a symbol of remembrance not just of those who died in the First World War, but in conflicts before and since. The poppy's origins as a symbol of remembrance lie in the First World War poem *In Flanders Fields* by Canadian officer John McCrae, first published in December 1915. Its opening lines refer to how the flowers grew from the graves of soldiers across Western Europe during the conflict:

In Flanders fields the poppies blow

Between the crosses, row on row

As the war ended, American poet Moina Michael used *In Flanders Fields* as the inspiration for her own work, **We Shall Keep the Faith**, and began wearing and distributing the red poppy as a symbol of remembrance. The practice quickly spread to the UK, where the first ever Poppy Day was held on 11 November, 1921, the third anniversary of Armistice Day.

Poppy Wreath

Prayers

Each person who is in Church is given a white Poppy. On the Poppy they can write names of people that they have known who have either been in World War I or World War II or any other conflict in the past or even in the present. If they do not know anyone personally, they can either write the name of a country that is currently in a time of conflict or war, asking God to let there be peace on earth.

When the Poppy has been written on, all the Poppies are gathered together and placed at the front of the Church as a symbol of the Church's commitment to seeking peace on earth.

What Does The White Poppy Mean?

The white poppy is a pacifist symbol of remembrance which has become more popular in recent years.

According to the Peace Pledge Union (PPU), the pacifist body which distributes them today, white poppies represent three things: remembrance for all victims of war, commitment to peace and a challenge to the glamorisation of conflict.

They were first produced in 1933 by the Women's Co-operative Guild to symbolise a message of no more war, and play a prominent role in the annual Alternative Remembrance Sunday Ceremony.

While the red poppy specifically represents remembrance associated with the British Armed Forces, the white poppy commemorates all victims of all wars – both military and civilians of all nationalities – seeking to bring to an end the exclusion of civilians from mainstream Remembrance events.

It aims to promote the idea that there are different ways to avoid conflict than through violent means, with the PPU stating: The best way to represent the victims of war is to work to prevent war in the present and future

'One Thousand Men Are Walking'

One thousand men are walking
Walking side by side
Singing songs from home
The spirit as their guide
they walk toward the light milord
they walk towards the sun
they smoke and laugh and smile together
no foes to outrun
these men live on forever
in the hearts of those they saved
a nation truly grateful
for the path of peace they paved
they march as friends and comrades
but they do not march for war
step closer to salvation
a tranquil steady corps
the meadows lit with golden beams
a beacon for the brave
the emerald grass untrampled
a reward for what they gave
they dream of those they left behind
and know they dream of them

forever in those poppy fields
there walks one thousand men
Joshua Dyer - 2019 (aged 14)

Song Suggestion

The Day Thou Gavest Lord Has
Ended



Blessing

We give you thanks at the end of our time together today for all the ways that you bless our lives: for the beauty and abundance of nature, the love of family and friends, the joy of knowing you as our Lord and Saviour and hearing your word.

Amen