

**ZOOM Worship for November 7, 2021
Remembrance Sunday with Communion**

Territorial Acknowledgment and Announcements

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is situated upon traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron - Wyandot, the Haudenosaunee and later the Mississauga of the Credit First Nations. The territory is mutually covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibway and other allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Today, this remains the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in their community, and to share and respect Mother Earth.

Centering Music: “Give Peace to Ev’ry Heart” MV 86

Give peace to ev’ry heart,
Give peace to ev’ry heart,
Give peace God,
Give peace God.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

By (Rev.) Nathan Wright—Chaplain, The Royal New Brunswick Regiment (Fredericton, NB) adapted.

One: From east and west, north and south,
we gather on our screens and in our hearts
on this day of remembrance to give thanks and praise.

Two: *We come to be inspired by the Word of God and honour the sacrifices of those who have committed themselves to service before self.*

One: In times of peace, in times of conflict, and in times of uncertainty,

Two: *We remember that we are not alone.*

One: We are the people of God, connected across time and space, from generation to generation.

Two: *We are united by the love of the One who said: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”*

One: As we gather virtually to remember, let us sing and pray.

Two: *Let us worship God together!*

One: Let us pray...

God of our past, present, and future, we have gathered as a people of hope. We hope for a future without war and a world that lives together in peace. In years past, and in the present day, members of our armed forces have put their lives at risk for this hope, with some paying the ultimate cost. May what we do here today strengthen our resolve to work together so that this hope may be fulfilled. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn: “God, As with Silent Hearts” VU 527

God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind
how hate and war diminish humankind,
we pause, and seek in worship to increase
our knowledge of the things that make for peace.

Hallow our will as humbly we recall
the lives of those who gave and give their all.

We thank you, God, for women, children, men
who seek to serve in love, today as then.

Give us deep faith to comfort those who mourn,
high hope to share with all the newly born,
strong love in our pursuit of human worth:
'lest we forget' the future of this earth.

So, Prince of Peace, disarm our trust in power,
teach us to coax the plant of peace to flower.
May we, impassioned by your living Word,
remember forward to a world restored.

Time for Reflection and Revelation

Marking the 100th Anniversary of the Poppy as the Flower of Remembrance

In Flanders Fields *(by L Col John McCrae)*

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

A moment of silence to remember

Sung Response: "Peace is Precious" tune VU 240

Once a year I wear a poppy;
I'm not sure exactly why.
How can such a tiny flower
Make the world stand quiet by?

Refrain:

Peace is precious,
Peace is precious,
Peace is precious in our hearts.

Remember is what they tell us,

But it seems so long ago,
Could there be another message?
Pray for people we don't know?

Refrain

Every day in places distant
People die to set folk free.
We have not yet learned the lesson,
Maybe God can help us see.

Refrain

Scripture Reading: Mark 12:38–44

As Jesus taught, he said, 'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.'

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

Music for Meditation: "Peaceful Waters"

Reflection: "Giving All You Have"

Hymn: "When Pain of the World" VU 598

When pain of the world surrounds us
with darkness and despair,
when searching just confounds us
with false hopes everywhere,
when lives are starved for meaning
and destiny is bare,
we are called to follow Jesus
and let God's healing flow through us.

We see with fear and trembling
our aching world in need,
confessing to each other
our wastefulness and greed.
May we with steadfast caring
the hungry children feed.
We are called to follow Jesus
and let God's justice flow through us.

The church is a holy vessel
the living waters fill
to nourish all its people,
God's purpose to fulfill.
May we with humble courage
be open to God's will.
We are called to follow Jesus
and let God's spirit flow through us.

We praise you for our journey
and your abundant grace,
your saving word that guided
a struggling human race.
O God, with all creation,
your future we embrace.
We are called to follow Jesus
and let God's changes flow through us.

Virtual Offering:

One: Today, we bring into our virtual worship a very real sense of our presence with each other.
Today, we remember those who have given all they really had to give.
Today, we can make our offerings to God with gratitude, in hope,
and knowing that in our giving we can remember, through our giving we can be present.

Two: *May our gifts of time and talent, of money and shared ministry,
be blessed both by God and by their impact in our world.
May our gifts bring hope and healing, support and flourishing
through God's love. Amen*

Sung Response: "Peace for the Children" MV 149 verses 1, 5, 10

1. Peace for the children, peace peace.
Peace for the children we pray.
Following the path of One of peace,
we work for healing, we work for peace;
peace for the children today.

5. Peace for the nations...
10. Peace in the soul...

Sacrament of Communion

Introduction to Communion

Choir: "Bread of Life"

One: The Holy One is here.
Two: God's Spirit is with us.
One: Lift up your hearts.

Two: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

Two: It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Two: O God of many names.
You made a covenant with Noah
and caused nations, in their amazing diversity,
to spread over the face of the earth.
As of old you led your people
out of a land of enslavement to a land of promise,
so, too, you led our ancestors, and some among us,
into new lands of possibility—there to find you anew.

One: In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus,
in every aspect human as we are.
He grew up in a small town in Galilee,
far from the seat of religious and civil power.
He spoke with a distinct accent.
He learned of the breadth of your grace
from a Gentile mother.
Beside Jacob's well,
he was moved by an encounter with a minority woman.
Therefore, with these and our other ancestors in the faith, both named and unnamed,
who through the ages and all over the world
have borne courageous witness to the hope within them,
we praise you, singing:

All: (sung) MV 203
O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space,
All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the one who comes
and bears your name always.

Two: On the last night he spent with his friends,
Jesus took an age-old tradition of his people
and transformed it into something new.
He took bread, staple food of his land,
blessed and broke it, and gave it to those around him saying,
"Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you.
Whenever you do this, remember me."

One: After supper he took a cup of wine, common drink of his people, and gave it to them, saying,
"Drink this, all of you, this is the new covenant in my
blood. Each time you do this, remember me."
By remembering Jesus in this way now,
we claim our common heritage

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: (sung) MV 204
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!

One: Send, O covenant God, your Holy Spirit
upon us and what we do here,
that we and these gifts, empowered by your Spirit,
may become signs of shalom
to one another and to all peoples of the earth.

Two: We lift our prayers for others to you, God
We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain . . .
all who are ill or alone . . .
all who live with fear, oppression, or hunger . . .
all whom the world counts as last and least
We pray for your church and its varied ministries . . .
for the nations as they strive for peace and justice . . .
for the earth, and the fragile web of life we share . . .
for our families and friends

The Lord's Prayer (sung) VU 960

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,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

One: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy,
now and forever.

All: (sung) MV 205
Amen, Amen, O Holy One!
Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, Amen, O Holy One!
Hosanna and Amen!

Breaking the Bread and Filling the Cup

If you are reading this service, or listening to the recording, this would be the time to share cup and bread – perhaps with the words “Jesus Christ, the bread of life” and “Jesus Christ, the true vine.”

Prayer after Communion

**Two: Life-giving God,
here we have been fed with your goodness,
here we have been given
a taste of life in its fullness.
May the nourishment we have been given
energize us to be the peace-bearing
hands and feet of Jesus in the world.
Amen.**

Closing Hymn: “When Hands Reach Out” MV 169

When hands reach out beyond divides
and hope is truly found,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace, of peace shall sound
and bells of peace shall sound,
each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound.

When fear no longer guides our steps
and days of war are done,
God's dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one,
our hearts will heal, will heal as one,
our hearts will heal as one,
God's dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one.

When race and creed blind us no more,
a neighbour's face we'll see,
and we shall dance the whole world round,
for love will set us free,
for love, yes love will set us free,
for love will set us free,
and we shall dance the whole world round,
for love will set us free.

Commissioning /Blessing

As we leave this time of worship, may God, who sang the universe into being, lead you,
and may Jesus Christ, God's love song to the world, attend you,
and may the Holy Spirit surround you as God's love is sung into each and every heart,
each and every day. Amen.

Sung Amen: "Sing Amen" VU #431**Reflection
"Giving All You Have"**

At first glance, this scripture assigned for the first Sunday of November doesn't seem to relate to Remembrance Sunday at all. Jesus' observations of the scribes' behavior and desire to be seen as important, of the crowd's offerings to the temple treasury including large contributions from the rich, and of the widow's gift seem more about stewardship than sacrifice. This is not a story of war, we might think, or of the need to stand up to powers that would overwhelm and destroy. No one gives up their life for others in this passage from Mark's gospel.

I think if we take a closer look at what Jesus is really describing here, and consider the social context of the time, we might see that there is a connection to the elements of conflict and war. Reflecting on the consequences of the widow's action, and noting just where in Mark's gospel this story is placed might reveal to us that great sacrifices are given.

First, the system that Jesus describes where the rich and influential feed on the poor and the marginalized, seeking even more power and control, echoes the circumstances that have led to war and conflict in our world throughout time, including the wars commemorated on Remembrance Day. Sadly, what Jesus describes is also the shape of how the Jewish faith was lived out by some. Second, although we often don't focus on this obvious conclusion to the widow's story – she gives not just coins, but her life. Without protection, without a means to feed or care for herself in a society that does not perhaps even see her, she will not live. Jesus points out that she has indeed given all – given to a faith she followed, ironically supporting the symbol of her faith that was supposed to care for her. Jesus, too, just four days after 'seeing' the scribes, the wealthy and the widow, will give his own life at Golgotha.

As we remember today, as we think about those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for us, perhaps we can also remember what Jesus said about the widow. He does not lift her up as a model for giving or for living; he does not tell the disciples that they must do as she has done. Jesus simply sees her, perhaps as others have not, and acknowledges her great gift and her sacrifice. That is what we are about in our remembrance worship today – to perhaps really 'see' those men and women who have given all they had, and to acknowledge their great gift.

We might also contemplate whether or not we truly see the widows in our midst, those whom the system fails, those who are vulnerable and yet still giving. I recently heard about a neighbourhood in Indianapolis where the average income per household was \$25,00 annually, and yet in that same 10 block area at least \$75,000 annually was given from these households to those who were in need. These were hidden gifts, until one church decided to ask questions, and to build relationships with people in this low-income area. Our own veterans, many wounded in spirit and mind if not in body, are often lost to our view, not well supported by government programs, and yet continue to give to one another and to their communities.

When we do not see the vulnerable ones, if our attention is drawn only to those with power or influence or money, we will not be able to bring change. If we will not see or understand sacrifice, we miss part of Jesus' story and the stories of those who have given all they had. God calls us to notice, God calls us to

acknowledge, God calls us to honour what is given. More than that, I believe that we are called to work diligently so that no sacrifice is ever needed again.

We celebrate communion today, our act of sharing and acknowledging what has been given for and to us. May our faith-family meal open our eyes to truly see, fill us with gratitude and move us to act to bring God's love and peace to all.

Amen