rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places;

gird our lives that they may be

armoured with all Christ-like graces

in the fight to set men free.

Grant us wisdom,

grant us courage,

that we fail not man nor Thee.

Save us from weak resignation

to the evils we deplore;

let the search for Thy salvation

be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom,

grant us courage,

serving Thee whom we adore.

Henry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969) © Elinor F Downs CCLI 150801

 

**8th November - Remembrance Day** **Andrew**

**Call to worship:**

O Lord you have always been our home. Before you created the hills or brought the world into being, you were eternally God and will be God forever. A thousand years to you are like one day, they are like yesterday, already gone, like a short hour in the night. Fill us each morning with your constant love so that we may sing and be glad all our life.

**M.P. 498 O God, our help in ages past,**

O God, our help in ages past,

our hope for years to come,

our shelter from the stormy blast,

and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Your throne

Your saints have dwelt secure;

sufficient is Your arm alone,

and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,

or earth received her frame,

from everlasting You are God,

to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Your 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 its sons away;

they fly forgotten, as a dream

dies with the dawning day.

O God our help in ages past,

our hope for years to come,

be our defence while life shall last,

and our eternal home.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) altd CCLI 150801

**Prayer & Lord’s Prayer**

Lord, we are saddened at the thought of war, of those who must fight and all those who are killed. Today we remember their sacrifice with great sadness and we thank them for what they did for us.

We are saddened too at the thought of your suffering, that you had to walk to Jerusalem, be arrested, tried and killed on the terrible cross. We thank you for what you did for us.

We also remember that you won for us a victory, that on Easter Sunday you rose again and opened the door to eternal life for all who follow you. We thank you for what you did for us.

As we remember may it be not just for today but every day. We ask it in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, as we share in the prayer that he taught us:

Peace in the world.

Peace in Great Britain.

Peace in our village.

Peace in our homes.

Peace in our hearts.

In the name and through the example of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**M.P. 192 God of grace and God of glory,**

God of grace and God of glory,

on Thy people pour Thy power;

crown Thine ancient Church's story;

bring her bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom,

grant us courage,

for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us

scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!

Fears and doubts

too long have bound us;

free our hearts to work and praise.

Grant us wisdom,

grant us courage,

for the living of these days.

Heal Thy children's warring madness;

bend our pride to Thy control;

shame our wanton, selfish gladness,

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills

to a calm that is mine to share;

secure and still in the Father's will

and kept by the Father's care.

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills

with a prayer as I turn to sleep;

by day, by night, through the dark and light

my Shepherd will guard His sheep

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills

and my heart to the Father's throne;

in all my ways to the end of days

the Lord will preserve His own.

From Psalm 121 © Timothy Dudley-Smith CCLI 150801

**A Prayer of Commitment**

As children of God, sisters and brothers in Christ, we live in the world that God created. Making it a peaceful world is our responsibility as well as other people’s.

As the children of God we are children of the world. We are a community of hope. We live as part of the body of Christ so we need to be peacemakers.

As the children of God we are united in mission and service. We are inspired by God’s spirit of faith, hope and love. Helping where we live to be a peaceful community is not for the future, we need to be peacemakers today.

As children of God we commit ourselves to work for peace today and everyday.

Our Father who art in heaven…

**Notices** (are on the sheet) **& Mission Prayer**

**M.P. 456 Make me a channel of Your peace.**

Make me a channel of Your peace.

Where there is hatred let me bring Your love;

where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord;

and where there's doubt, true faith in You.

O Master, grant that I may never seek

so much to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of Your peace.

Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;

where there is darkness, only light;

and where there's sadness, ever joy.

 O Master, grant that I ......

Make me a channel of Your peace;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

in giving to all men that we receive.

and in dying that we’re born to eternal life.

Sebastian Temple © 1967 OCP Publications CCLI 150801

**Bible Reading John15:9-17**

There have been many different reactions of those returning home after serving abroad in a time of war. Some literally falling on their knees and thanking God they were home, their belief in him strengthened by the fact that they had been saved. But many also have come home struggling to believe in a God of love who would allow so much suffering, so much killing, so much death. It is at theses times we can forget that we do worship a God who gave us a free will, allowing us to make the decisions as to what we think is right and what is wrong and so in that way he cannot be a God who interferes and controls the way we live our lives. To put that more simply, how can we expect God to do something like stopping one person killing another and then reflecting that, if I went for my paper this morning, and unaware it was coming stepped out in front of a car in Town Gate so that the driver had no chance of stopping would we expect God to stop that car from hitting and probably killing me?

Mankind, the whole human race, is responsible for its own actions and the consequences of those actions which in far too many circumstances have resulted in the loss of many lives.

Although some may use his name to justify what they do we cannot blame God for what we do but we can thank God that somehow he seeks to bring good things out of the atrocities we seem to be perpetrate and in that way hopefully, make us aware of the lessons to be learned

**The Tryst**

'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.'

**2 minutes silence**

**The Kohima Epitaph: (Burma)**

When you go home

Tell them of us and say

For your tomorrows

We gave our today.

**Prayer**

Hallow our remembrance, O God, and grant that for the sake of those whose names are on this memorial, those whom we have named in our hearts and for the sake of generations yet unborn, the nations of the world may seek to live in your abiding peace;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**M.P. 281 I lift my eyes to the quiet hills**

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills

in the press of a busy day;

as green hills stand in a dusty land

so God is my strength and stay.

endure we need the peace of heart and mind and the joy of faith that he gives to sustain us.

Joy that is expressed in our happiness and God loves to see us enjoy the good things that come through our relationship with him and with one another.

Joy that is deeper than our sorrow and able to sustain us through the desperately hard times of our lives.

Joy that is stronger and more enduring than our sometimes poor human efforts to maintain our levels of commitment.

Joy that means the fear of war must never be stronger than our desire for peace remembering those words that ‘war will never bring peace’ so together we have to find another way and God’s way is the only one to true peace.

The principle is set the sacrifice has been made and the challenge is ours. We are called to go and bear fruit through the way we live our lives and for it to endure it must be the fruit of peace as only God can make it.

**The Act of Remembrance**

**Prayer**

As we remember in silence before God those who died in the two world wars, and in the many other conflicts which have taken and continue to take countless lives, let us commend their souls again to His eternal mercy, and let us pray and ask that he would grant us grace to serve him faithfully to our life’s end to the honour and glory of his holy name.

from the past to guide us in the future. As we are again limited to do what we want by the Covid19 virus we have seen during the last 9 months how the challenge and threat has brought people together and encouraged the rebuilding of the community spirit which we seemed to be losing.

Today is a day to remember people’s commitment and, if we were celebrating Holy Communion, we would be remembering together the greatest act of commitment our world has ever seen and from what has been recorded of the time leading up to it it is clear that Jesus knew what was going to happen. Then we can set along side that the commitment of our own families, friends, people of this nation and others who are fighting the deadly virus today

and who went to war to stop the spread of evil, stop the taking over of one nation by another, knowing that they may never return.

So today we remember those who died in two world wars and in the many conflicts since,

those who were injured in battle or through capture and imprisonment, those who returned home safe yet were never to be the same people again because of their experiences and those who remained at home working to support the efforts of those who had gone abroad. It was not just a few heroes but millions of men and women, at home and overseas and because of their effort, I can stand here a free man able to express my thanks and my faith in Jesus Christ, a faith which sustains us all as we seek to serve God day by day.

I was born 4 years after the end of the second world war so don’t remember it or the consequences of it as my father returned safely from the 8th army campaign in North Africa and Italy yet having seen so much since then with Falklands, Iraq and Afghanistan I can recognise how, no matter what we do, war can never truly bring real peace. As one veteran said when talking to a church youth group: “It is up to you to find a new way, war will never bring peace”.

So in the light of the amazing teaching of Jesus that the greatest commitment a person can have is in laying down his life for another just as He did for the whole world how do we look at the way we live our lives when we also remember he said ‘Blessed are the peace makers, for they will be the called children of God’?

How do we look at our commitment to God and the world in which he has set us in the light of the commitment of those who fought for freedom and what God did for us in Jesus Christ.

God did it because he loved us and wanted to set us to be free from the evil that seeks to take over control of our lives. Those who went to war went because they wanted to keep the freedom we had and prevent that being taken away by an invading force of evil who sought to take over our country and control of our lives.

So our commitment today is challenged by that sacrificial commitment of God and of others too even though many of them may not have professed to believe in what Jesus had done for them. If we are half hearted in what ever we do, we deny God and those who have gone before us. Peace making is not just about not causing war but about being peace makers, about putting ourselves in the front line of the battle against all those things in our world

that seek to take over peoples lives, that seek to control the way people live their lives, to control the way people build unity and build community and because today many of these are spiritual battles it is essential that we are involved because much of the battle is against those who seek to get rid of religion all together. Therefore we can’t give less than all we are to make our world a better place to be.

What Jesus says is that the relationship we have with him creates the foundation for what we believe, for who we are, for how we behave or live and for how we work to change the world.

We have seen what Jesus did and how he loved and how he challenges us to live so that our lives reflect the fact we have moved from being servants to friends, to brothers and sisters of Christ himself. For us to do that and