

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

SUNDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2007

At the end of the welcome the priest says:

P We meet today to remember all those whom we have loved and who have now died, to renew our trust and confidence in Christ, and to pray that together we may be one in him, through whom we offer our praises to our heavenly Father.

1st Hymn: HON379 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

Why a Poppy?

During a lull in fighting at the Battle of Ypres, a Canadian Medical Officer, John McCrae, wrote a moving poem called, 'In Flanders Fields', mentioning the poppies which grew around the graves of his dead comrades. The Poppy soon became a symbol of remembrance, peace and caring. The first Poppy Day was held on Saturday 11th November 1921, exactly three years after the end of the First World War. Since then, poppies have been sold each year to raise money for the returned service people in need. Here is the poem:

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 down, 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 you break faith with us who die
we shall not sleep, though poppies grow
in Flanders fields.

2nd Hymn: HON169 Fight the good fight

Remembrance Day

Sadly, as we hear this week-end that 850 young American soldiers have lost their lives in Iraq since January 2007 and we remember the haunting pictures of the coffins emerging from the backs of those transporter planes, so we remember the terrible pain experienced by the families of each of those who have been killed.



Reading: *Wear a Poppy* Don Crawford

Wearing a poppy, therefore, is a mark of our respect for all those who fought. But it also has a practical outcome. So many of those caught up in war came back maimed in one form or another. So the money raised is spent on residential homes and rehabilitation units like the one in Maidstone where 243 people live, making road signs and working in wood and printing workshops. It offers pensions for widows and a network of welfare support. The poppies are actually made by disabled service personnel in Richmond, Surrey.

We all wish there was no need for war. But if we commit our forces to tasks on our behalf, for justice and peace, many will need help to cope with their injuries afterwards. That is why we wear poppies: we are not to forget what others have done for us.

2nd Hymn: **HON428 Love Divine, all love's excelling**

1st Reading: Micah 4: 1-5

Stand

IN MEMORY OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DIED IN CONFLICT

P And now let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping, those who have died as a result of armed conflict; those whom we knew and those whose memory we treasure, and for all who have died in the service of mankind.

In the rising of the sun and its going down:

we will remember them.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter:

we will remember them.

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer:

we will remember them.

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn:

we will remember them.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends:

we will remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart:

we will remember them.

When we have joys we yearn to share,

we will remember them.

So long as we live they too shall live, for they are a part of us,

and we will remember them.

Choral Interlude: *Jesus the Lord said, I am the Light* arr Geoff Weaver

During the singing, please feel free to add your candle to the big cross at the front of the Church, and say a prayer in memory of those who have died, in war or in peace. Please sit when you return to your seat.

God, give us grace to honour those who have died in the cause of justice and of peace by living lives worthy of the sacrifices that they have made. **Amen.**

Please stand

They shall not grow 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.

We will remember them.

There follows the two minute silence

The Last Post

Sit

Today we also remember all those whom we have lost in death, whose passing continues to leave an inconsolable space in our lives. As we listen to this familiar reading from the Bible about love, some of us recall now those who have died during this last twelve months; some, those who have died longer ago.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Address

3rd Hymn: **HON649 The King of love my shepherd is**

THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

P What eye has not seen, no ear heard, no human heart conceived, God has prepared for those who love him.

God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life. Show compassion on your people in their sorrow. Be our refuge and our strength to lift us from the darkness of grief into the peace and light of your presence.

Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying for us, conquered death, and by rising again, restored us to life. May we go forward eagerly to meet him, and after our life on earth, be reunited with all who have gone before us in heaven where every tear will be wiped away. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**