



# **A Service of Remembrance**

at

**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST**

*The Parish Church of Burgess Hill*

**Fr David Charles, Vicar**

**12<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

*with*

**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – BURGESS HILL BRANCH  
BURGESS HILL TOWN COUNCIL  
MID SUSSEX BRASS BAND**

*Please take your places quietly, while the Band is playing,  
to prepare for the service; then stand as the first hymn is played.  
During this hymn the Standards and the Book of Remembrance are presented,  
followed by the preparation of the drumhead altar.*

## **HYMN**

- 1. O valiant hearts who to your glory came  
through dust of conflict and through battle flame;  
tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,  
your memory hallowed in the land you loved.**
- 2. Proudly you gathered, rank on rank, to war  
as who had heard God's message from afar;  
all you had hoped for, all you had, you gave,  
to save mankind – yourselves you scorned to save.**
- 3. Splendid you passed, the great surrender made;  
into the light that nevermore shall fade;  
deep your contentment in that blest abode,  
who wait the last clear trumpet call of God.**
- 4. Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,  
rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,  
while in the frailty of our human clay,  
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self same way.**
- 5. Still stands His Cross from that dread hour to this,  
like some bright star above the dark abyss;  
still, through the veil, the Victor's pitying eyes  
look down to bless our lesser Calvaries.**
- 6. These were His servants, in His steps they trod,  
following through death the martyred Son of God:  
Victor, He rose; victorious too shall rise  
they who have drunk His cup of sacrifice.**

**7. O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our dead,  
whose cross has bought them and Whose staff has led,  
in glorious hope their proud and sorrowing land  
commits her children to Thy gracious hand.**

## **BIDDING AND PRAYER OF PENITENCE**

**Priest:** We are here to worship Almighty God, whose purposes are good; whose power sustains the world he has made; who loves us, though we have failed in his service; who gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world; who by his Holy Spirit leads us in his way. As we give thanks for his great works, we remember those who have lived and died in his service and in the service of others.

We pray for all who suffer through war and are in need; and first we ask forgiveness for our many failings in Christian discipleship that we, and all God's people, may be renewed in service and watchfulness for the coming of the Kingdom of righteousness and peace.

**All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word, and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**Priest:** Almighty God, have mercy on us,  
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and keep us in life eternal.

**All: Amen.**

## **HYMN**

- 1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways!  
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence praise.**
  
- 2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.**
  
- 3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!**
  
- 4. Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.**
  
- 5. Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still small voice of calm!**

## **THE READINGS**

*Please sit*

*The Bible lessons are read by students from our local schools.*

## **First Reading**      (*Hebrews 10. 11 – 18*)

*A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:*

Every priest stands day after day at God's service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

"This is the covenant that I will make with them  
after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,  
and I will write them on their minds,"

and he adds,

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

*Here ends the first Lesson.*

## **HYMN**

**I. And did those feet in ancient time  
walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the holy Lamb of God  
on England's pleasant pastures seen!  
And did the Countenance Divine,  
shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
among these dark Satanic Mills?**

**2. Bring me my bow of burning gold;  
bring me my arrows of desire:  
bring me my spear: O clouds, unfold:  
bring me my chariot of fire.  
I will not cease from mental fight,  
nor shall my sword sleep in my hand:  
till we have built Jerusalem,  
in England's green and pleasant land.**

*Please sit*

**Second Reading:** (St Mark 13. 24 – 33)

*A reading from the Gospel of Mark.*

“But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

“Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come.”

*Here ends the second Lesson.*

## THE INTERCESSIONS

*Please sit or kneel*

**Priest:** In the power of the Spirit and in the faith of Jesus Christ  
let us pray to God our Heavenly Father.

*Read by the Mayor of Burgess Hill*

Lord God, on this day of remembering,  
we pray for the peace of your world.  
We remember all people who are suffering today  
because their countries are at war  
or because of the threat of terrorism,  
that they may find peace and security.  
We pray for those who commit these acts of violence,  
that your light may shine into their darkness  
and lead them away from violence to live in peace.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Read by a member of the Royal British Legion*

Lord God, on this day of remembering,  
we pray for political leaders.  
Give them wisdom and courage.  
Guide them so that they may find ways to settle differences  
by negotiation and diplomacy rather than by threats  
and the violence of war.  
Help people of differing religious and political beliefs  
of different races and cultures, to see the good in one another  
and to be more tolerant.  
Help us to be peacemakers, that we may be called your sons and  
daughters.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Read by a member of the Armed Services*

Lord God, on this day of remembering  
we pray for those who work in places  
where there is war and violence;  
for soldiers who must act as peace keepers;  
for aid workers and agencies providing food and shelter;  
for doctors, nurses and paramedics who care for the sick,  
the wounded and the dying.

Guard and defend them and keep them in safety.  
Bless their work in bringing relief, healing,  
reconciliation, and peace.  
We pray for the Royal British Legion.  
Bless its work of help and support  
for those who have served their country so well.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Read by a member of the Cadet Corps*

Lord God, on this day of remembering we thank you for all the  
brave men and women who gave their lives  
that we might live in freedom and safety today.

Help us to honour them by committing ourselves to preserve  
the peace and freedom which they won at such great cost. As we  
recall their sacrifice, we pray that you will hold them in your love  
and give them a share in the eternal peace of heaven.

Lord, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

**Priest:** Let us gather up our prayers as we pray with confidence to the  
Father in the words our Saviour gave us:



**All: 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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Please stand. During this hymn, a collection will be taken. The proceeds will be divided between St John's Parish Church and the RBL Poppy Appeal.*

## **HYMN**

- 1. Now thank we all our God,  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours to-day.**
  
- 2. O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.**

**3. All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son, and him who reigns  
with them in highest heaven,  
the One eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore. Amen.**

*Please sit*

## **THE ADDRESS**

**Fr David Charles**

*During the following hymn, the drumhead altar will be dismantled and the Standards returned to their bearers. Please stand.*

## **HYMN**

- 1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;  
leave to your God to order and provide;  
in ev'ry change, he faithful will remain.  
be still, my soul: your best, your heav'n-ly friend,  
through thorny ways, leads to a joyful end.**
- 2. Be still, my soul: your God will undertake  
to guide the future as he has the past.  
your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,  
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.  
be still, my soul: the tempests still obey  
His voice, who ruled them once on Galilee.**

- 3. Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,  
and all is darkened in the veil of tears,  
then shall you better know His love, His heart,  
who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.  
be still, my soul: for Jesus can repay  
from His own fullness all He takes away.**
- 4. Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
when we shall be for ever with the Lord,  
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,  
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.  
be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

## **THE ACT OF COMMITMENT**

**Priest:** Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women, that we may help, encourage, and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

**All:**     **Lord God our Father,  
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all mankind,  
in the cause of peace,  
for the relief of want and suffering,  
and for the praise of your name. Amen.**

## **THE NATIONAL ANTHEM**

- I. God save our gracious King,  
long live our noble King,  
God save the King.  
Send him victorious,  
happy and glorious,  
long to reign over us.  
God save the King.**

2. Thy choicest gifts in store  
on him be pleased to pour,  
long may he reign:  
may he defend our laws  
and ever give us cause  
to sing with heart and voice:  
**God save the King.**

3. Nor on this land alone,  
but be **God's** mercies known  
from shore to shore:  
**Lord**, make the nations see  
that men should brothers be,  
and form one family  
the wide world o'er.

## **THE BLESSING**

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

**Priest:** The peace of God which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God  
and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
and may almighty God bless you:  
✠ the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**All:** **Amen.**

*The Standards will depart as the band plays a slow march,  
followed by the Servers, Choir, Ministers and the Union Flag.  
Please allow the Standards and Dignitaries to leave the Church first.*

*After the service, all are warmly welcome to join the Royal British Legion  
for refreshments at the Burgess Hill Constitutional Club in Cyprus Road.*

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