

**Transformation – NOW!
REMEMBRANCE**

Opening Prayer

God, it's difficult to see the point of wearing a poppy,
or what difference two minutes' silence will make
when we could be shouting protests.
But we can recognise a broken life being valued,
a gift being given,
and taking two minutes to reflect on how much we have.
We look to the future, not to the past.
We cannot change what has been
but do not need to repeat its mistakes.
So as old and young come together before you,
take the very best of our lives;
bind us into one people of faith
and help us to share our common values,
love of Jesus and care for each other;
to build dreams,
and, with your Holy Spirit,
turn them into reality.
Amen.

Hymn: Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
sung by St Martin's Voices

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
self denying, death defying,
thou to Calvary didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

James Edmeston (1791-1867)

Bible Reading: Matthew 5: 1-12 (NIV)

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

He said:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Reflection from Dirt, Mess and Danger

At the 11th hour, on the 11th day, in the 11th month,
the busy traffic will cease,
and the noisy clamour of the world will be silent
for two short minutes.

At the 11th hour, on the 11th day, in the 11th month,
cash registers will not ring,
and important and urgent tasks will be put on hold
for two short minutes.

At the 11th hour, on the 11th day, in the 11th month,
thoughts will turn to long ago,
and for some it will seem like only yesterday.

But two short minutes can never be enough
to acknowledge the sacrifice, to fill up the emptiness,
to comfort the pain and the grief,
to teach this warring world there is a much better way.

At the 11th hour, on the 11th day, in the 11th month,
the traffic will not cease, the cash registers will continue to ring,
work will carry on as usual,
and thoughts will be of this day's battles, bullets and bombs.

And in two short minutes victories will be secured or lost.
For this world has not yet learned its lesson:
it has chosen to refuse to understand
and has been unwilling to embrace
and take on board the road to peace,
the method of love, the better way.

And folk might be forgiven for believing
the sacrifice was all for nothing
the emptiness inside has been ignored,

the pain has been passed over as unimportant,
for our world is still at war with itself.

At the 11th hour, on the 11th day, in the 11th month,
what can we do, where can we go,
to whom, in our disappointment, might we turn?

To the God whose other name is Love,
and whose gospel is a gospel that speaks of peace.

To the One who enters into our deepest grieving,
and offers us refuge, and is our strength, and gives life meaning.

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Hymn: Make me a channel of your peace

sung by Katherine Jenkins

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

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

Oh 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
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born into eternal life

Oh 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
And where there's sadness ever joy

Jon Cohen

A Prayer for Peace

My brothers and sisters,
through this common prayer,
let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ,
not only for ourselves and our own needs,
but for all people, young and old, near and far.

For the holy Church of God,
that we follow in the footsteps of the Prince of Peace
and serve with compassion
the last, the least, the lost, and the littlest ones, let us pray,
Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

For all the peoples of the world,
especially those wounded by war
and those who bear the brunt of poverty,
that we heed the prophets' call
to beat swords into plowshares
and work to transform our world from one
of weapons and want to one of peace and plenty, let us pray,
Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

For our nation and our leaders,
that we seek to unite and not divide,
to place a priority on the poor and not the powerful,
grant us wisdom, compassion,
and commitment to justice and peace, let us pray,
Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

For all our brothers and sisters in need,
especially the children and families suffering from gun violence
and the violence of poverty, let us pray,
Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

For ourselves and our community,
that we join with people of all faiths across our nation
to make our nation and world safe for children, let us pray,
Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

God of love,
who shelters us like a mother hen and welcomes us like a father,
hear the prayers of your Church,
and grant us today what we ask of you in faith.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Mary Sumner's prayer

All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live. **Amen.**

Hymn: I, the Lord of sea and sky

sung by St Martin's Voices

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Chorus

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Chorus

Daniel L. Schutte (b.1947) © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte & New Dawn Music

An Act of Commitment

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.

Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind,
in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom;
give us courage;
give us hope;
and keep us faithful now and always.
Amen.

From Times and Seasons

Material: as stated

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Thursday Prayers next month will be on 14th December 2023
– Advent