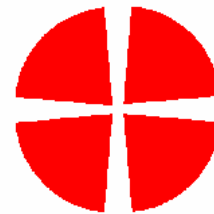


Church of
England

St Mark's Church Bedford

The Church of England and the
Methodist Church in Partnership



Methodist
Church

Remembrance Sunday 2004

Verse of Scripture

Jesus said, There is no greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John Chapter 5:13

Welcome

Minister: The Lord is here

All: **His Spirit is with us**

Introduction

Minister: 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; we ask for his help and blessing that we may do his will, and that the whole world may acknowledge him as Lord and King.



Hymn (Tune: Austria)

God who weeps when we are weeping
maker, lover, friend of all,
we commit into your keeping
those who suffer, struggle, fall.
Plant the seeds of peace inside us
in these days of fateful choice;
let your word and wisdom guide us
as we listen for your voice.

Christ, enduring hate and violence,
hounded to a martyr's death
calmly meeting taunts with silence,
speaking peace with your last breath:
peace, courageous and demanding,
binds us as we walk your way.
May our wills, at your commanding,
turn to acts of peace today.

Spirit, strengthen and sustain us,
grant us comfort, hope and light,
lead us in your ways and train us
as we strive for truth with right,
rise above retaliation,
live the peace we long to hear,
look for reconciliation
past our anger, pain and fear.

God of every race and nation
God of mercy, strong and just
build again in us compassion
recreate our hope and trust
Though our lives seem dark and empty,
may we learn to live as one
till, in safety, peace and plenty
all your work on earth is done.

*by Marie Barrell (New Zealand)
Used permission Methodist Resources*

Act of Penitence

Minister: Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world; its pride, its selfishness, its greed; its evil divisions and hatreds. Let us confess our share in what is wrong, and our failure to seek and establish that peace which God wills for his children.

**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.**

Minister: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Act of Remembrance *(all standing)*

Minister: Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping: those who have died for their country in war; those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived and died in the service of others.

Placing of the Wreath

Placed by Florence and Michael Ovenden
(The wreath is now brought forward and placed at the altar)

The Silence

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

All: We will remember them.

Minister: Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: Hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfill in them the purpose of thy love; and bring us all, with them, to thine eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Act of Commitment (*all standing*)

Minister: Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and others: 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 others,
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.**

National Anthem

1 God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save the Queen.

2 Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.

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.

Offering

Thank you for your gifts to the work of this church. If you are a tax payer please use the Gift Aid envelopes available in the church. Thank you also to those who have already presented their offering through the bank by standing order or who share in regular giving by using envelopes.

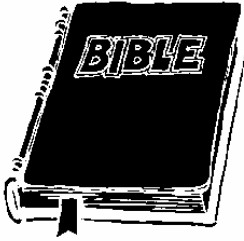
All stand as the Offering is brought forward

**All: Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you:
Use them your holy purpose to fulfill;
Tokens of love and pledges they shall be
That our whole life is offered to your will. Amen**

Hymn

- 1 As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship You.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
to You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship You.*
- 2 I want You more than gold or silver,
only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye.
Chorus
- 3 You're my Friend and You're my Brother,
even though You are a king.
I love You more than any other,
so much more than anything.
Chorus



The Collect

Eternal God, in whose perfect realm no sword is drawn but the sword of justice, and no strength known but the strength of love: guide and inspire all who seek your kingdom, that peoples and nations may find their security in the love which casts out fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Bible Readings

Please see the readings in your copy of Partnership News

At the end of each reading -

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

Hymn (Tune: Thaxted)

I vow to love my neighbour, whatever race or creed,
to join her in her suffering, to plead with him in need.
This love will always question, will search out right and wrong,
will give itself for justice, for those who don't belong.
This love will never falter, till every soul is free,
till nations held in bondage can sing of liberty.

Through scenes of devastation, through famine, drought and war,
we'll work in ways of gentleness, work hard till we restore
the vision of the prophets, the way of Jesus grace,
till nations dwell in peacefulness together in this place;
till all the world together can sing in joyful praise
and God's celestial city is built within our days.

Sermon

The Reverend Charles Royden

This service is commended by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, and the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council. Additional resources from Methodist Church, Church of England and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Hymn (Tune: Abbot's Leigh)

God is Love: let heav'n adore him;
God is Love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heav'ns above,
he who breathes through all creation,
he is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love: and he enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp he holdeth
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

God is Love, and though with blindness
sin afflicts the souls of men,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides them even then.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

**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**

Hymn (Tune: Melita)

O Father, on your love we call,
When sorrow overshadows all,
And pain that feels too great to bear
Drives from us any words for prayer;

*Refrain: Enfold in love for ever more
 All those we love, but see no more.*

Our children, innocent and dear,
Were strangers to a world of fear;
Each precious life had more to give,
In each, our hopes and dreams could live;

So brief, the joy since each was born,
So long the years in which to mourn;
Give us compassion to sustain
Each other in this time of pain;

Guard us from bitterness and hate,
And share with us grief's crushing weight
Help us to live from day to day
Until, once more, we find our way;

When dark despair is all around,
And falling tears the only sound,
Light one small flame of hope that still
You walk with us, and always will

*(Jean Holloway,
Resources Churches Together in Britain and Ireland))*

The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, and all people, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always. Amen.