Kenilworth Town
Act of Remembrance



Welcome to this Act of Remembrance where we pause and hold before God those who have given their lives in war and conflict, in the pursuit of peace. Today's service will be led by representatives of the Churches in Kenilworth, the Royal British Legion and the Town Council. Our thanks go to all who have been involved in the planning and organisation of this service, the volunteers who prepare the site and act as stewards, the musicians, the Royal British Legion and uniformed organisations.

During this service a collection will be made for the work of the Royal British Legion. Please give generously as buckets are passed around.

Please join in with the words in bold and the hymns.

Introduction

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6.8

Words of welcome are made.

The presiding minister continues:

We meet in the presence of God.
We commit ourselves to work
in penitence and faith
for reconciliation between the nations,
that all people may, together,
live in freedom, justice and peace.
We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain
continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.
We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow
those whose lives,
in world wars and conflicts past and present,
have been given and taken away.

Hymn

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 Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is Thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting Thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
are like an ev'ning 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 at the op'ning day.

O God, our Help in ages past,
our Hope for years to come,
be Thou our Guide while life shall last,
and our eternal Home!

Issac Watts (1719)

Remembering

An older person says:

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.**

The beginning of the two-minute silence may be signalled.

Silence is kept.

The completion of the silence may be signalled.

The following prayer is said:

Ever-living God,
we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence;
may that same peace calm our fears,
bring justice to all peoples
and establish harmony among the nations,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

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:

(chorus)
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:
(chorus)

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Words: Sebastian Temple

Listening for the Word from God

The reader says:

Hear these words from scripture.

A small passage from the bible is read followed by silence.

Praying Together

A minister leads us in prayer:

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict,
and ask that God may give us peace:
for the service men and women
who have died in the violence of war,
each one remembered by and known to God;
Lord in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

For those who love them in death as in life,
offering the distress of our grief
and the sadness of our loss;
Lord in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

For all members of the armed forces
who are in danger this day,

remembering family, friends
and all who pray for their safe return;
Lord in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

For civilian women, children and men
whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,
calling to mind in penitence
the anger and hatreds of humanity;
Lord in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

For peacemakers and peacekeepers,
who seek to keep this world secure and free;
Lord in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership,
political, military and religious;
asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve
in the search for reconciliation and peace;
Lord in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

O God of truth and justice,
we hold before you those whose memory we cherish,
and those whose names we will never know.
Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past,
may we put our faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

All join together in the Lord's Prayer:

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.

Responding in Hope and Commitment

Representatives of the community come forward to lay wreaths. Followed by other acts of remembrance.

The Kohima Epitaph is said by a representative of the Armed Forces:

When you go home
tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrow
we gave our today.

Hymn

During which a collection is taken for the work of the Royal British Legion.

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow brief life's span.

You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Fred Kaan (1965)

An Act of Commitment

The Act of Commitment is led by the Mayor:

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service. Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

All **We will.**

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

All **We will**

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

All **We will.**

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us
that have not yet been cast out by love:
may we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people, and live lives of justice, courage and mercy;
through Jesus Christ our risen redeemer.

All **Amen.**

The following blessing is used:

God grant to the living grace,
to the departed rest,
to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth and all people, unity, peace and concord,
and to us and all God's servants,
life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The National Anthem is sung.

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.

With words of thanks all are dismissed.

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