AN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE
on
ARMISTICE DAY

Wednesday 11 November 2020
10.55am
Welcome to Christ Church on this Armistice Day, as we gather with representatives of the two Oxfordshire regiments remembered in our Chapel of Remembrance, and their successor regiments.

We come together to remember the fallen of two world wars and conflicts across the world; to give thanks for peace; and to commit ourselves to work for the healing and reconciliation of the nations.

The service begins with a short Act of Remembrance incorporating the two minutes’ silence at 11 am. This is followed by a longer service, the remembrance of the fallen from the regiments to whom our Chapel of Remembrance is a memorial: The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, The Royal Green Jackets, The Rifles and The Queen’s Own Oxfordshire Hussars, now 142 (Queen’s Own Oxfordshire Hussars) Vehicle Squadron, The Royal Logistics Corps.

Although this year we cannot turn physical pages, or remember by name as many of the fallen as we would in ordinary times, we nevertheless remember with gratitude and care all those who have given their lives in the conflicts of the twentieth century. Those we name before God represent all those who have fallen.

During the service, please participate as you wish. There are no directions for standing, sitting or kneeling in this service sheet, but please do stand, sit or kneel as you find most helpful.

We pray that God’s blessing will rest on you and upon all people.

Music before the Service
played by Benjamin Sheen, Sub Organist

Chorale Prelude on ‘Eventide’
C.H.H. Parry (1848–1918)
The service begins as the Regimental Assembly Calls are sounded and the clergy enter the cathedral.

Introduction

God is our refuge and strength;  
a very present help in trouble.

*Psalm 46: 1*

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*

Act of Remembrance

The Revd Canon Richard Peers, Sub Dean of Christ Church, welcomes the congregation and introduces the service. He 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.

At 11 o’clock, a member of the Royal British Legion 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 Last Post is sounded.*

Silence

*is kept for two minutes.*
Reveille is played and the Kohima Epitaph is read:

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

The Precentor prays:

Almighty God, creator and preserver of all mankind, we beseech thee in thy wisdom to guide and guard all thy servants of the Armed Forces of the Crown: especially those of The Rifles and 142 (Queen’s Own Oxfordshire Hussars) Vehicle Squadron, The Royal Logistics Corps. Make them worthy of the great traditions bound up in their former Regiments; and as thy servants of old were chosen to obey with speed, may they be bold to seek thy grace in every time of need and so be patient and persevering in running the race set before them. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Sub Dean introduces the Prayer:

Let us pray for all who died in two world wars and in conflicts since, for all members of the Armed Forces who have been injured on active service, for those who suffer as a result of conflict and for all who mourn the lost.

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.
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.

Remembrance of the Fallen

The Conducting Officer says:

We who represent the two Oxfordshire Regiments of today,
The Rifles and 142 (Queen’s Own Oxfordshire Hussars)
Vehicle Squadron, The Royal Logistics Corps, are here to
remember those killed in War.

Especially we remember those from the Oxfordshire
Regiments of yesterday from whom we are directly descended,
The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, The
Royal Green Jackets and The Queen’s Own Oxfordshire
Hussars with The Imperial Yeomanry, whose names are
commemorated in the Books of Remembrance cherished in
this Cathedral Church. We also remember those from this
House who gave their lives in the two World Wars.

A representative from the Queen’s Own Oxfordshire Hussars says:

In this book are recorded the names of those who gave their
lives for their Country and their Regiment, The Queen’s Own
Oxfordshire Hussars.
We remember the 167 who gave their lives in the First World War, including:

*5 names are read.*

and we remember the 42 who gave their lives in the Second World War, including:

*5 names are read.*

The Queen’s Own Oxfordshire Hussars’ Regimental Call is sounded and the Chaplain prays:

Almighty God, whose perfect love casteth out fear, remember in thy great goodness The Queen’s Own Oxfordshire Hussars and all who serve with us. Keep us mindful of former valour and grant us grace, that whatsoever our minds and hands shall find for us to do for Thee, we may endure hardships as thy good faithful soldiers and so enter into thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A representative of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry says:

In these books are recorded the names of those who gave their lives for their Country and their Regiment, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

We remember the 5,878 who gave their lives in the First World War 1914-1918 and those who lost theirs lives in subsequent conflicts up to 1939, including:

*5 names are read*

and from the Second World War 1939-1945, the 1048 who gave their lives and those who lost their lives in subsequent conflicts up to 1965, including:

*5 names are read*
The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry’s Regimental Call is sounded and the Precentor prays:

Almighty God, Our heavenly Father, bless we pray Thee our Regiment. We thank Thee for the good example set by those who have gone before. We praise Thee for the honour and tradition inherited from the past. We remember with gratitude those who have fallen in the service of the Regiment. Guide and counsel those in authority with wisdom and understanding. Prosper our work and every worthy enterprise and may the common ties of loyalty and devotion strengthen our comradeship together. Make us persevering and enable us to show the cheerful infection of good courage. So, with proud thanksgiving may we hand on the good name of our Regiment, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, to those who follow after and this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The representative of the Royal Green Jackets says:

In this book are recorded the names of the 45 soldiers from The Royal Green Jackets, who gave their lives in conflicts from 1966-2007. Amongst those we remember:

5 names are read

The Royal Green Jackets’ regimental call is sounded and the Precentor prays:

Almighty God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we beseech Thee in Thy wisdom to guide and guard us, Thy servants of The Royal Green Jackets. Make us worthy of the great traditions bound up in the union of our three Regiments, and as Thy servants of old were chosen to obey with speed, may we be bold in running the race that is set before us. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
The representative of The Rifles then says:

In this book are recorded the names of the 62 soldiers from The Rifles who have given their lives in conflicts from 2007 to the present day, amongst whom we remember:

5 names are read.

The Rifles’ regimental call is sounded and the Precentor prays:

O Almighty God, the sure stronghold of each succeeding age, guard us Thy servants of The Rifles, that we may uphold and be worthy of the great traditions bound up in our former Regiments, and as we were chosen to be swift and bold may we seek with courage your grace in every time of need and so be patient and persevering in running the race that is set before us. This we ask through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

The Sub Dean says:

We also remember those from Christ Church whose names are recorded on the war memorials in the cathedral porch. From the First World War 239 soldiers, sailors and airmen; from the Second World War 221 soldiers, sailors and airmen.
Reading
Matthew 5: 1–12
read by Lynda Atkins, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire

Seeing the multitudes, Jesus went up into a mountain:
and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:
And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
“Blessed are the poor in spirit:
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after
righteousness: for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers:
for they shall be called the children of God.
Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake:
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you,
and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
Rejoice, and be exceeding glad:
for great is your reward in heaven:
for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

This is the word of the Lord.

All  Thanks be to God.
Prayers

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace:

for service men and women who have died in the violence of war,
each one remembered by and known to God;
may God give peace.

All God give peace.

For those who love them in death as in life,
offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;
may God give peace.

All God give peace.

For all members of the armed forces in danger this day,
their family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;
may God give peace.

All God give peace.

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership,
for gifts of wisdom and a search for reconciliation;
may God give peace.

All God give peace.

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

All Amen.
National Anthem

played on the Organ. Please stand.

The Blessing

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 evermore.

All Amen.

After the Blessing, wreaths are laid in the Chapel of Remembrance by representatives of the regiments.

Music after the Service

played by Benjamin Sheen, Sub Organist


Edward Elgar (1857–1934)