

GREAT GLEN CHURCHES TOGETHER

A Service of Commemoration to mark the outbreak of the First World War

11am, Sunday 3 August 2014
at St Cuthbert's Church, Great Glen



CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN: God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind (Tune: Eventide)

God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind
how hate and war diminish humankind,
we pause – and seek in worship to increase
our knowledge of the things that make for peace.

Hallow our will as humbly we recall
the lives of those who gave and give their all.
We thank you, Lord, for women, children, men,
who seek to serve in love today as then.

Give us deep faith to comfort those who mourn,
high hope to share with all the newly born,
strong love in our pursuit of human worth:
‘lest we forget’ the future of this earth.

So, Prince of Peace, disarm our trust in power,
teach us to coax the plant of peace to flower.
May we, im-passioned by your living Word,
remember forward to a world restored.

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

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We have gathered here today in God’s presence to worship him, to remember all those from this community and from communities across Europe and the wider-world, who were caught up in the momentous events of the First World War.



We call to mind the millions who laid down their lives and we give thanks for the courage and comradeship, for acts of heroism and self-sacrifice. We commend to God's grace and mercy all who fell of whatever race, colour or creed. We pray urgently for the peace of the world, for the day when the lion and the lamb shall lie down in peace together and all God's children lay down their swords forever. We ask God's blessing on those who still suffer because of war. Let us renew our determination to work for peace and reconciliation in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

As we contemplate the sheer horror and tragedy, futility and waste of conflicts past and present, we turn to God in penitence and faith, acknowledging his great goodness and love.

Let us pray.

For the hatred that divides your one human family, now as then – nation from nation, people from people, white from black, Christian from Muslim - denying your Fatherhood. Lord, have mercy.

All: Father, forgive

For the malice and fear, jealousy and resentment that turn us against one another; for the aggression and savagery that enable us to inflict hurt and pain; for our readiness to resort to war and violence. Lord, have mercy.

All: Father, forgive

For the pride and prejudice that turn us away from one another in anger, trusting in ourselves and our own worst instincts, rather than you. Lord, have mercy.

All: Father forgive.

For the greed and selfishness that make us exploit others, claim the good things for ourselves and lay waste the body of good mother earth. Lord, have mercy.

All: Father forgive.



Lord break our hearts of stone. Teach us to love as you love us, with a love that gives itself for others' sake.

Freely have we confessed, freely we are forgiven

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

All sit.

First Reading: Isaiah 2: 2-4

All: Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Anthem: 'God will wipe away all tears' from 'The Armed Man' (Carl Jenkins)

Second Reading: St Matthew 5: 1-10

All: Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God

Hymn: How happy you who work for peace (tune: Rockingham)

How happy you who work for peace!
Your hands shall plant and not destroy,
your words defuse the power of hate,
your prayers bring hope and love and joy.

The scars of earth, of blast and bomb
shall than be healed, and green will grow,
the air that radiated death
give life and health, as sun on snow.

The toys of war shall all be sold
to buy a feast the world can share,
the glint of guns become the tools
that till the earth and make it fair.



How happy you who work for peace,
who mend the torn, who bend the rod!
You make the Christ direction plain;
you truly are a child of God.

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All sit

Here may follow various readings and accounts from the First World War including poems and music of the time and a short Reflection

A responsorial prayer of commemoration

Remember, Lord, those whose stories were unspoken and untold.

All Jesus, remember them when you come into your kingdom.

Remember, Lord, those whose minds were darkened and disturbed by memories of war.

All Jesus, remember them when you come into your kingdom.

Remember, Lord, those who suffered in silence, and those whose bodies were disfigured by injury and pain.

All Jesus, remember them when you come into your kingdom.

Father of all, remember your mercy, and look with your healing love on all your people, living and departed. On this day we especially ask that you would hold for ever all who suffered during the First World War, those who returned scarred by warfare, those who waited anxiously at home, and those who returned wounded, and disillusioned; those who mourned, and those communities that were diminished and suffered loss.

Remember too those who acted with kindly compassion, those who bravely risked their own lives for their comrades, and those who in the aftermath of war, worked tirelessly for a more peaceful world. And as you remember them, remember us, O Lord; grant us peace in our time and a longing for the day when people of every language, race, and nation will be brought into the unity of Christ's kingdom. This we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Hymn: O God of hope, your prophets spoke (tune: Repton)

O God of hope, your prophets spoke
of days when war would cease:
when taught to see each person's worth,
and faithful stewards of the earth,
we all would live in peace,
we all would live in peace.

We pray that our divided world
may hear their words anew:
then lift for good the curse of war,
let bread, with justice, bless the poor,
and turn in hope to you,
and turn in hope to you.

Earth's fragile web of life demands
our reverence and our care,
lest in our folly, sloth and greed,
deaf both to you and others' need,
we lay our planet bare,
we lay our planet bare.

Earth's rich resources give us power
to build or to destroy:
your Spirit urges us to turn
from selfish, fear-bound ways, and learn
God's selfless trust and joy,
God's selfless trust and joy.

The Prince of Peace is calling us
to shun the way of strife:
he brings us healing through his pain;
our shattered hope is born again
through his victorious life,
through his victorious life.

Basil Bridge (b.1927) (alt.)
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All remain standing

The Commitment to Peace

Let us pledge ourselves today to live as good neighbours, to honour the past, to care for all who are in need, and to live at peace among ourselves and with all people.

**All: Lord God, Father of all,
 we pledge ourselves to work for peace and justice
 here and in all the world,
 to serve you and this neighbourhood,
 to bring relief to all who are in need,
 and to comfort the sad, lonely, and distressed;
 Keep us ever mindful of the struggles
 and achievements of former generations,
 and of this place where we make our home,
 now, and in the days to come. Amen.**

Strengthen our hearts, and hands, and minds, O Lord,
to work together for peace; to see you in one another;
and to seek your kingdom above all things;
that your will may be seen to be done
and your kingdom come,
through Jesus Christ,
the Lord of lords and King of kings. **Amen.**

As we ask that God's will may be done in this and every place, so we pray together as Jesus Christ has taught us:

Our Father who art in heaven, ...

The Blessing

God grant to the living grace,
the departed rest,
the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth
and all the world, peace and concord;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**



Hymn: Lord, for the years (tune: Lord of the Years)

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the Word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

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