

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH GRAFHAM

'THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK'

11th November 2020



Today is Armistice Day. It gives us an opportunity again to stop and reflect as we did on Sunday. Perhaps you might like to think specifically about the tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey. It was one hundred years ago today that his body was buried in the Abbey. The tomb was filled in with soil from the battlefields in France. Although it is often incorrectly known as the tomb of the unknown soldier, no one knows from which of the three services or from which part of the British Isles, the Dominions and Colonies the body came. (If you would like to know more about the history of the tomb of the Unknown Warrior there is a very informative article on the Westminster Abbey website.)

During the First World War many people drew hope and encouragement from the idea that it was a 'war that will end war', which originated in the title of a book by H. G. Wells. Sadly we know that that was not to be the case. In 1950, General Eisenhower said, 'No one has yet explained how war prevents war. Nor has anyone been able to explain away the fact that war begets conditions that beget further war.' Martin Luther King wrote, 'Peace is not the absence of tension, but the presence of justice.' What might we do today to prevent war and to promote peace? In the Beatitudes, Jesus says. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God'. (Matthew 5:9).

As we reflect on this Armistice Day, you might like to use one of these prayers:

A Prayer for Those Affected by War

God of justice and peace,
we pray for those who have been injured
or disabled through war.
For those who have lost homes
and security through conflict;
for those who have lost loved relatives in wars;
for those who face danger and take risks for peace;
for all those, especially children, caught up in current conflicts;
for refugees and all those in need of aid and other help.
God of encouragement
and Saviour of the despairing,
comfort those who remember past sacrifices
and guide us in building
a just and peaceful community for all.
Amen.

For Peacemakers

History can inspire or trap.
Walls can protect or divide.
Words can encourage or inflame.
Power can free or destroy.
Touch can comfort or violate.
Peace can be shared or withheld.
Gracious God, on this day,
when we remember past and present conflicts,
we pray for the divided peoples of the world,
that leaders, governments and each one of us
may use our resources,
our opportunities and our lives
in the service of reconciliation,
for the sake of future generations
and to the glory of your name.
Amen.

For Reconciliation

As one family, we reflect today on the horrors of the past that continue
to haunt humanity and darken our world.
Lord, where pain still overwhelms, bring healing.
Where hearts are still breaking, bring comfort.
Where peoples are still oppressed, bring liberation.
Where communities are still victimised, bring justice.
Where children are still brutalised, bring compassion.
Where lives are still crushed, bring hope.
Where evil is perpetrated, bring repentance.
Where war still devastates, bring peace.
But most of all,
wherever a single voice cries out in the darkness,
bring us to one another,
in the name of the love you bear in your heart for all people,
all nations and all creation.
Amen.

(All prayers from ROOTS for Churches Ltd)

With my love and prayers

Camilla

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