



WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF REMEMBRANCE DAY

Sunday, November 11, 2018

These resources have been prepared by Lt(N) Rev. Michael Macintyre, ELCIC pastor, serving as Chaplain, 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Edmonton, AB.

Notes on worship:

1. The proper name for the day is Remembrance Day, not Armistice Day or others. It is a Commonwealth day, originally to commemorate the close of the Great War at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 1918; but since then in Canada it has expanded to include the Second World War, The Korean Conflict, lives lost in Peacekeeping and Support operations abroad, and recently the Afghanistan war.
2. Used in the context of congregational worship, timing may not be a practical consideration. Two minutes' silence is observed at 11:00 AM sharp in most places. That timing may or may not be feasible for congregations in worship.
3. Songs such as *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*, ELW #632, *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*, ELW #756, *God of Grace and God of Glory*, ELW #705, and other songs from the justice and peace section, ELW #s 706–729 would be appropriate for the day.

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Confession and Forgiveness

Grace to you and peace, from God our Creator, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God; their bodies are buried in peace, but their names live forevermore.

Amen.

On this Remembrance Day,
when the stain of war is ever before us,
and the memory of sacrifice and loss is present with us,
let us confess our sin in the presence of God, and one another.

Almighty God,

We are people of clay,

molded and mended by our societies and cultures,

formed in ways that misshape us from the work of your hands.

**Forgive us for the ways in which we have judged others by our standards
and not by yours.**

**Our notions of justice and peace fall short of your standards
of pure justice and holy righteousness.
Forgive us for creating and perpetuating conflict
both within the borders of our community and countries,
and across the borders of others.
We have become people of words, and not actions.
Others have perished while we have stood by.
Forgive us for our inaction, and bless us to become
people of living justice and not just bystanders.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, renew our spirits and our hearts
that we may seek and serve you in newness of life.**

We are people of conflict, given to petty disputes and squabbling.
Like the apostles, we seek personal stature over community health.
Jesus comes to us, and models the way of service, self-sacrifice, and commitment to the common good of all.
May God strengthen us, empower us, and forgive us
In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven and you are made new.
May you rejoice in this new day,
Remembering those who have given everything in the cause of peace and freedom,
And find peace and wholeness with your neighbour
That their sacrifice not be in vain.

Prayers of Intercession

These prayers may be included with other prayers of intercession.

Remembering that war is an ever-present reality of this world, from the first humans, let us remember and pray for those whose lives have been touched, shaped, and shattered by it.

Let us pray for people who live in places of war. *(Silence)*

Almighty God, whose presence reaches every corner of this world, we pray for the human lives affected by war. For refugees, for displaced persons, and those who seek to rebuild their broken nations, hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

Let us pray for world leaders, that peace and the common good may prevail. *(Silence)*

Almighty and everlasting God, giver of wisdom, we pray for the leaders of every nation and tribe of this earth. May they see the human cost of their pride and hubris, and be humble of heart. Give them the strength to act righteously to protect the weak and the innocent, and the power to prevail over evil. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

Let us pray for soldiers. (*Silence*)

Almighty God, generations pass before you in an instant. Young men and women have laid down their lives for their friends, believing that in doing so they served both you, and their country. Look with mercy upon our foolhardy ways, and grant us peace. Be with those who keep the watch this day both at home and abroad, that they may know your love and mercy. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

Ring of Church Bells

The Royal Canadian Legion, Dominion Canada and Veteran's Affairs has requested that churches consider joining the "Bells of Peace" initiative, ringing church bells one hundred times at the setting of the sun on November 11, 2018. Congregations/communities may consider this as appropriate.

www.legion.ca/remembrance/promoting-remembrance/bells-of-peace