

Mears Ashby and Hardwick and Sywell with Overstone



**Prayers and Reflections
for use at home**

**Sunday 9 November 2025
Remembrance Sunday**

Welcome to the Prayers and Reflections for Remembrance. This year, we are marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War 2. It was a time for remembering those who lost their lives at home and on the war's frontlines, and for looking forward to brighter days. Eighty years on, we honour the service and the sacrifice of the surviving veterans, and we pray for a true and lasting peace in our world's troubled places.

May these prayers and reflections be a source of God's comfort and hope this Remembrance Sunday.

God bless,

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*As you prepare to remember the fallen and to pray for peace,
place your trust anew in God's saving grace and love.*



Be still, my soul: the Lord is at your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend,
through thorny ways, leads to a joyful end.

Katharina Von Schlegel (b. 1697)

trans. Jane L. Borthwick

Prayers and Reflections for use at home Remembrance and Hope

PREPARING OURSELVES

As you prepare to remember the world's suffering and seek God's peace and hope for today's hurting places, be still and notice God's presence. You may wish to have a candle ready to light later in the reflections together with a poppy to represent the people you are remembering. We begin by pausing to contemplate this verse.

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from whence will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 121:1-2

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

As you say this prayer and recall by name your family's fallen and those who came home changed by their wartime experiences, you may wish to lay a poppy before an unlit candle or a cross.

Heavenly Father,
on this day of remembrance,
I name before you those who served in past wars
whom I have loved and lost.
As I treasure precious memories of them,
hold safe in your keeping [names...]
until we meet again.
In Jesus' name,
I pray. **Amen.**



*Pause to recall them with love,
and seek God's comfort and strength
in the pride and sadness of
your remembering.*

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

*You may wish to join in with the Nation's Act of Remembrance,
or you can say these words at home.*

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.

We will remember them.



Pause for two minutes in silence.

*At the end of which, you may wish to light a candle of hope before singing
or reading these hymn verses. As you gaze into its flickering flame or
picture a rising sun, contemplate where God's presence can be found in
the darkness of human conflict and destruction.*

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
will bear us all away;
we fade and vanish, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

GOD'S WORDS OF HOPE

Wars will cease

As you read God's hope-filled vision for the world that he made with love, think about those who are working hard to make his dream a reality for those living in today's war zones. Hold in your heart some of those places and peoples. You've a lot to choose from, including Ukraine and Russia, Myanmar and Sudan, plus there is the tentative ceasefire in Gaza.

If you have an atlas or globe, you may wish to gaze at these nations as you lift them up to God in prayer.

In the days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples,
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.'

Isaiah 2:2-4



Reflecting on God's vision

God's vision sees all the peoples across the globe streaming up to Zion, the hill on which Jerusalem sits. Gone are all the divisions which separate nations and destroy communities. Everyone is happy to live alongside their neighbours in God's kingdom. He will be the just judge who decides on the outcome of past and present disputes. Gone will be the need for nations to spend billions upon billions of pounds on drones and missiles, bombs and bullets. The earth's resources can be used for the building up of peoples and the wellbeing of all creation.

It is a truly beautiful vision for our planet home. God's priorities will be our priorities. Gone will be all the fear and the suffering that war brings, gone will be all the devastation caused by human conflicts. Five years on from the peak of the Syrian civil war, towns and villages still lie in ruins. How long will it be before these are rebuilt? How long will it be before the empty streets of Gaza and Ukraine are full of laughter and life?

Too long! All we can do is trust in God's vision and in his promise to unite all peoples and resolve their differences. When wars seem unending – such as in Ukraine and Sudan – and we can't see a way to peace, God is the one that we can turn to as our source of light and hope. God can see a time when peace will come to these troubled places. God can bring about lasting reconciliation. If not now, then when his Son returns.

As we wait for God's vision to come true, we can pray with love and with hope for these war-torn places. May God guide them and us to the future which he has in store for us. Pause to ponder this prayerfully.



Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul: the tempests shall obey
his voice, who ruled them once on Galilee.

Katharina Von Schlegel (b. 1697)

Love as I love

Our second reading for Remembrance speaks of God's desire for us, and for the whole of his creation. May we learn to love as Jesus loves, as self-giving of ourselves and of our love that others find peace.

Jesus said, 'As the Father has love me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things so that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

John 15:9-17

Accepting our call to love

At Remembrance, God invites each one of us to renew our pledge to be his peace-makers and hope-bearers. Pause to think about one thing you can do in the cause of peace, and then make your promise.

Lord, make me a channel of your peace,
where there is hatred may I sow your love,
where there is despair may I bring your hope,
where there is darkness may I shine your light. **Amen.** *cf. St. Francis of Assisi*

PRAYERS OF HOPE AND HEALING

Some prayers of hope and healing.

Lord, I pray for all who suffer as a result of conflicts,
past and present, and ask for your peace:

For all who have given their lives or their health in the cause of peace,
and for all who serve in our armed forces today. *Silence.*

For all who are remembering the injured and the fallen,
and for all who pray for the safe return of those on frontlines. *Silence.*

For all civilians and animals who have fled war zones,
and for those living in fear of bombs and bullets. *Silence.*

For all peacemakers and peacekeepers who are keeping people safe,
who are seeking to resolve differences and reconcile countries. *Silence.*

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease
and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace
of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offer your own heartfelt prayers for the wellbeing of God's creation.

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

GOD'S BLESSING

Feel God's blessing as you read these words from the Book of Numbers.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you his peace. **Amen.**

from Numbers 6:24-26