

Video: Highway of Heroes

O Canada

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE -by James Traquair, Dundas Street Centre UC, London, ON

L: We light the Christ candle.

P: The Christ candle reminds us that the light of Christ shines on the road to peace and illuminates our most difficult hours.

L: We light the Candle of Remembrance.

P: The Candle of Remembrance reminds us of the supreme sacrifice of those who have defended our freedom and our peace forever and for all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME Welcome, everyone, to this service of remembrance. We have gathered here with gratitude to recognize the sacrifices of our Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP members who have offered themselves in service to our country. Through world wars and regional conflicts, at home and abroad, they have demonstrated courage, loyalty, integrity, and service to Canada before self. The freedoms we enjoy today would not be possible without them. And so, on this Sunday before the 11th day of the 11th month, we remember them.

Video: Pittance of Time

TO PONDER Why do we have Remembrance Day? Why do we stop what we are doing at 11:00 am every November 11? What does it mean to remember someone? It means to bring them here with us—to re-member them, so that time and space have no meaning. Death itself is overcome. This is the purpose of remembrance in Canada: to affirm the lives lost in war and bring them here with us as we worship in freedom and peace. We should never take for granted the freedom we have to celebrate our diversity in Canada.

CALL TO WORSHIP -by Taylor Croissant, Southminster UC, Lethbridge, AB

L: Our country pauses at this time of year to remember those who have died in armed conflict, those who have died answering the call to defend freedom, to defend the vulnerable,

P: When our country answered the sacred call of "friend."

L: Today we honour those who have sacrificed their own lives to help others who were in distress, or oppressed by tyranny,

P: And give thanks for the lives of peace we enjoy today.

L: Jesus has instructed us to pray not only for our loved ones and allies, but also for our enemies. May our worship this day guide us to remembrance, to gratitude, and to reconciliation.

P: Come, let us worship Christ, the Prince of Peace.

GATHERING PRAYER -by Sandy Ferguson, Strathearn UC, Edmonton, AB

God of peace, we gather today to remember the loss of so many of your children through the horrors of war. This sacred task of remembrance calls us to ensure that the scourge of war must end.

Because, through remembrance, we understand what is truly lost when nations resort to war.

Your creation, which should bring joy to the world, seems lost and in chaos because too often we are unable to live at peace with ourselves and others. So, let this day of remembrance be an inspiration to our witness. Let us prepare the way for your vision of peace revealed to us by your son, through the prayer he shares with us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*, VU # 806

O God, our help in ages past,	under the shadow of thy throne	Before the hills in order stood,	A thousand ages in thy sight	Time, like an ever- rolling stream	O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,	thy saints have dwelt secure;	Or earth received its frame,	Are like an evening gone,	Soon bears us all away;	Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,	sufficient is thine arm alone,	From everlasting thou art God,	Short as the watch that ends the night	We fly, forgotten, as a dream	Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home:	and our defence is sure.	To endless years the same.	Before the rising sun.	Dies at the opening day.	And our eternal home.

SCRIPTURE READING *Micah 4:3*

"[God] shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; 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 longer."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Almighty God, we thank you for bringing us together this Remembrance Sunday

P: **to recall with tenderness and respect those who lost their lives from this community and the many thousands farther afield in the wars of the last century.**

L: We pray for all those still caught up in conflicts across the world

P: **and acknowledge what may be our own confusion about war and how we might participate in creating an enduring peace.**

(time for silent prayer and reflection)

L: Help us to meet with you in these moments of worship,

P: **make us ever mindful of your goodness toward us, and strengthen us to be aware of the needs of others. As we pray for peace, may it start with peace in our hearts.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life,

P: **Hear our prayers for all this day and help us to live in love and service. Amen.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Gracious God, bless these gifts and these givers. May they be used well to foster peace and joy in this world and in the lives of those who cross our paths.

P: **May real and lasting change start now, with us, through us, and with God's blessing. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Music Video Poppy Song

Discussion Hold up a poppy and ask if anyone recognizes the symbol and knows why we wear it. (There are no wrong answers here. Children will know this from school, and adults have their own reasons for wearing a poppy.) Ask if anyone has ever lost a poppy. Losing a poppy reminds us how easy it is to forget that freedom and peace are not things that just happen. King George VI said, "Peace and freedom cannot long be separated. Without freedom there can be no enduring peace, and without peace no enduring freedom."

CHILDREN'S PRAYER:

Dear God: Sometimes people aren't very nice to each other. They fight, and that's not what Jesus teaches us to do. Please help us remember to show kindness to each other, and maybe that kindness will spread all around the world. Peace in our world seems so far away. But we trust in you and know that you will bring kindness to your children's hearts. We love you and our families. Amen.

Children leave for Sunday School

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 A Time for Everything

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Ephesians 6:10-18 The Whole Armour of God

Finally, build up your strength in union with the Lord and by means of his mighty power. Put on all the armour that God gives you, so that you will be able to stand up against the Devil's evil tricks. For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age. So put on God's armour now! Then when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist the enemy's attacks; and after fighting to the end, you will still hold your ground. So stand ready, with truth as a belt tight around your waist, with righteousness as your breastplate, and as your shoes the readiness to announce the Good News of peace. At all times carry faith as a shield; for with it you will be able to put out all the burning arrows shot by the Evil One. And accept salvation as a helmet, and the word of God as the sword which the Spirit gives you. Do all this in prayer, asking for God's help. Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads. For this reason keep alert and never give up; pray always for all God's people.

HYMN Abide With Me, VU # 436

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide; The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide; When other helpers fail, and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me.	Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away; Change and decay in all around I see; O Christ, who changes not, abide with me.	I need your presence every passing hour; What, but your grace, can foil the tempter's power? Who, like yourself, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.	I have no fear with you at hand to bless; Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness; Where is death's sting? Where, grave, your victory? I triumph still, if you abide with me.	Hold now your cross before my closing eyes; Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies; Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.
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REFLECTION

Holy One, we come before you now with praise and thanksgiving, as well as sorrow and concern in our hearts. With gratitude on this Remembrance Sunday, we call to mind the soldiers, sailors, air personnel, and RCMP who have paid the ultimate price that we might live in freedom. We remember those who died in distant wars and those more recent. By sacrificing their lives, they left us the responsibility and the duty to continue their work on the things that make for peace. From generation to generation, may their valour and selflessness never be forgotten.

We are especially mindful today of the effects of military life on the body, mind, and spirit. Give courage, comfort, and healing to all those who suffer wounds, both visible and invisible. Help us to remember that the effects of conflict reach far beyond the battlefield and can last a lifetime. Enable us to provide the support our service members need to live happy and healthy lives. May our commitment to them be as full and complete as their commitment to serve Canada before self.

Lest we forget, the families and friends of our service members share in the burdens of military life. Bring comfort and strength to the relatives and friends of those who serve. When they are grieving the loss of their loved ones, may they know your compassionate and comforting presence. When they are separated from one another due to deployments or other operational requirements, may their bonds be strengthened. When their lives are uprooted because they are posted to a new location and everything is new all over again, may they be upheld by the constancy of your steadfast love. Accompany them in their daily joys and protect them in difficulties.

May our act of remembrance this day honour those who have put themselves in harm's way for the safety of others. May we never forget their sacrifice, the families who grieve for them and support them, and their example of integrity, loyalty, courage, and duty.

As people of faith, we re-commit ourselves to work together for peace in our world. May the hope that we carry in our hearts lead us to seek new and creative ways to resolve our differences. We look forward to that day when your reign is fully realized among us and swords are turned into plowshares and nation no longer lifts up sword against nation.

We ask all these things in the name of the One who came to show us your ways. Amen.

LAST POST

2 Minutes of Silence

ROUSE

PRAYERS OF PEOPLE -by David Sparks, Summerland, BC

L: Remember the people, men, and women who have died in active service.

P: And we remember their friends and family members who still feel deep grief.

(a time of silence)

L: Remember the men and women who still suffer the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wounds of war.

P: And we remember those for whom depression and post-traumatic stress is a reality.

(a time of silence)

L: Remember the naval, army, and air force personnel who faced mortal danger.

P: And we remember civilians, bombed, shelled, and driven from their homes, and refugees living in camps without hope of a new life.

(a time of silence)

L: Peace-loving God,

P: While we commit ourselves to remembering, count us in when it comes to compassionate and practical support for those who suffer because of wars past and present.

L: We remember, and we act, because the Jesus spirit inspires us. We also long for the moment when mourning, suffering, and sickness are no more. Until that day comes, we ask that you respond to us when we lift before you in the silence of our hearts the names of those people, places, and situations that are in need of your tender loving care this day...

(a time of silence)

L: Restore them to health and wholeness, O God.

P: Amen.

PARTING HYMN Make Me a Channel of Your Peace, VU # 684

Make me a channel of your peace:	Refrain: O Spirit, grant that I may never seek	Make me a channel of your peace:	Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;	So much to be consoled as to console,	Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;	It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
Where there is injury, your healing power,	To be understood as to understand,	Where there is darkness, only light;	In giving to all that we receive,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you:	To be loved as to love with all my soul.	And where there's sadness, ever joy. Refrain	And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

BENEDICTION Our loving God desires that all people, indeed the whole world, be restored to right relationship with God and one another, so that we might live together in peace.

SUNG BENEDICTION Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace,
never be afraid.
God will go with you
each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go, now in love,
and show you believe.
Reach out to others
so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

CHORAL AMEN

EXTINGUISH THE CHRIST CANDLE