Sunday, November 8, 2026 - Order of Service for Remembrance Day
Guest Singer: Helen Hibbert

Light 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.

Welcome Welcome everyone to today's service when we will be reflecting on Remembrance Day and the sacrifices veterans have made or are continuing to make on our behalf. Please join me in welcoming Helen Hibbert and her husband Leroy to our Remembrance Day Service. They were both here a couple of years ago and we are honoured to have them back with us. Helen will be sharing her talent with us and singing two special songs.

O Canada

Call to Worship *-by the Very Reverend Richard Bott, Vancouver, BC*

L: What do we remember today?
P: Decisions made to stand in the face of injustice. Lives lost because of that call. Hopes and dreams that it might never happen again.
L: Why do we remember this time of pain and sorrow?
P: We remember so that we, too, might challenge injustice - in times of peaceful conversation and in times of painful conflict.
L: But where is God in all of this?
P: God is with "us." God is with "them." God is with the soldier and the civilian.
L: God is with us all,
P: face covered in tears, hoping that we will find shalom.
L: What is this shalom?
P: Peace with justice. Peace with hope. Peace that brings new life. God's peace.
L: Then let us remember . . .
P: Wars past . . . Wars present . . .
L: and let us worship our God,
P: the God of shalom.

Guest Singer Helen Hibbert

Gathering Prayer
-written in collaboration by UCC military chaplains Captain (Rev.) Audrey Brown and Captain (Rev.) Tyler Powell

L: Almighty God,
P: Grant that we who gather here today may pay fitting tribute and honour to the memory of those who have died in the service of their country.
L: May we be so inspired by the spirit of their love and courage that, forgetting all selfish and unworthy motives,
P: we may live only to your glory and to the service of your people. May we who desire peace be willing to work for justice.
L: We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray . . .

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering 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.

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.

Children's Ministry *Every memorial tells a story -a video review of some of the war memorials in France and Canada*

Children's Prayer *-written by Anne Morrisey*
Dear Loving Father: that video we just watched tells us about some of the war memorials around the world that honour veterans. The Memorials help us remember the sacrifices that men and women from all across Canada made and are making during the wars, past and present. It is those sacrifices that allow us in Canada to live in freedom. We are free to speak many languages, practice many religions, and love anyone we choose. The veterans have suffered greatly. Please bless them and heal any wounds they are still living with. Thank you, God. We love You and we love the veterans. Amen.

An Act of Remembrance
- **In Flander's Fields**
- **Words of Remembrance**
- **Two *minutes of Silence***
- **Rouse**
- **Words of Remembrance**

Children leave for Sunday School

Prayer of Confession
-written collaboratively by UCC military chaplains Captain (Rev.) Audrey Brown & Captain (Rev.) Tyler Powell
L: Almighty God, we thank you for bringing us together this Remembrance Sunday 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.
P: We pray for all those still caught up in conflicts across the world and acknowledge what may be our own confusion about war and how we might participate in creating an enduring peace.
L: Help us to meet with you in these moments of worship. 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
-written collaboratively by UCC military chaplains Captain (Rev.) Audrey Brown & Captain (Rev.) Tyler Powell
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.

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

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

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

Offering Prayer *-by Karen Boivain, Melville UC, Fergus, ON*
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.

Scripture Readings
Ephesians 6:10-18, The Whole Armour of God -from Good News Bible
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.

Luke 7:1-10, Jesus Heals a Roman Officer's Servant, from Good News Translation

When Jesus had finished saying all these things to the people, he went to Capernaum. A Roman officer there had a servant who was very dear to him; the man was sick and about to die. When the officer heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to ask him to come and heal his servant. They came to Jesus and begged him earnestly, “This man really deserves your help. He loves our people and he himself built a synagogue for us.” So, Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the officer sent friends to tell him, “Sir, don't trouble yourself. I do not deserve to have you come into my house, neither do I consider myself worthy to come to you in person. Just give the order, and my servant will get well. I, too, am a man placed under the authority of superior officers, and I have soldiers under me. I order this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes; I order that one, ‘Come!’ and he comes; and I order my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does it.” Jesus was surprised when he heard this; he turned around and said to the crowd following him, “I tell you, I have never found faith like this, not even in Israel!” The messengers went back to the officer's house and found his servant well.

Hymn ***Make Me a Channel of Your Peace***, VU 684

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring your love
Where there is injury, your healing power
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Refrain
Oh, Spirit grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there’s despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there’s sadness, ever joy. Refrain

Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all that we receive,
And in dying that we’re born to eternal life.

Reflection *We Shall Remember Them* **-***written by Susan Lukey, Editor, The Gathering*

My relationship with Remembrance Day has shifted through the years. As a child, I loved the ritual and formality of the occasion. I cherished remembering my grandfather, a German immigrant, who served as a gunsmith in Toronto during World War II. As a public-school teacher, I embraced my role in civic socialization, engaging the children in Remembrance Day as well as other national civic occasions.

As a seminary student, I questioned the marking of Remembrance Day. Did it celebrate war? Do Remembrance Day rituals have a place in worship?

In my 35 years of congregational ministry, I have come to understand Remembrance Day in its role of providing space for pastoral care for veterans and their families. Yes, the veterans and soldiers dress in uniform and display their medals, but I realize that something deeper is going on for them. They are not honouring war or condoning it. It is the one day that they publicly can give witness to what they experienced. There is unexpressed grief rumbling behind the solemn faces and stiff military stances. There is deep trauma just under the surface as they march on and off, raise and lower flags, and lay poppy-laden wreaths. At the 2025 Ottawa Remembrance Day ceremony, a CBC reporter asked a veteran in his nineties what he wanted younger generations to remember from this day. His answer was clear: “You don’t want war. You don’t want to go to war.”

I’ve come to recognize that, especially here in Canada, Remembrance Day is not about celebrating war. It is about all of us gathering alongside one another, offering support and bearing witness to the deep grief and trauma that veterans and soldiers cannot begin to put into words, do not want to put into words.

Many of us know that Remembrance Day is on November 11 because the armistice ending the fighting of World War I officially went into effect the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Did you know that there is more to the date? As Diana Butler Bass points out in her November 2025 blog, November 11 became a common date to sign treaties because of its relationship to a particular saint, including the Treaty of Granada (1500), the Peace of Zsitva-Torok (1606), the Peace of Westphalia (1648), the Canandiagua Treaty (1794) and the Treaty of Sinchula (1865).

November 11 is the feast day of St. Martin of Tours (316–397 CE). Martin, born in Hungary, showed interest in Christianity at a young age. Horrified by this interest, his father enrolled Martin in the Roman army. Yet, Martin continued to be intrigued by Christianity. As the story goes, one day when he was on patrol, Martin saw a naked beggar on the road. He took off his military cloak and covered the man. That night, Jesus came to Martin in a dream and honoured him for his gift. It was a turning point. Martin was baptized and asked to be released from Roman service, declaring that as Christ’s soldier he could no longer fight for Rome.

Martin devoted himself to the church, as a monk, as a priest, and then as the third bishop of Tours. He is most remembered for his peacemaking and his generosity to the most vulnerable. The feast day of this soldier-turned-peacemaker became the day for signing treaties, though his story has been lost to the rituals of November 11.

No holiday, civic or religious, has only one way of understanding it. What I have come to understand is that Remembrance Day is a needed and valid way to express in ritual the horrors, the grief, and the trauma that cannot be put into words.

In 1 Corinthians 12:26, Paul declares that “if one member suffers, all suffer together with it.” And so, I join in Remembrance Day rituals and include a time of remembrance in worship in order to share in the unexpressed suffering of those whose deep desire is for no more war.

Prayers of the People

-contributed by Capt. (Rev.) Nathan Wright, Chaplain, The Royal New Brunswick Regiment, Fredericton, NB

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 swords against nation.

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 on this day. *(moment of silent prayer)*

Restore them to health and wholeness, O God. We ask all these things in the name of the One who came to show us your ways. Amen.

Parting Hymn *This Is God’s Wondrous World*, VU # 296

This is God’s wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings and round me rings
This is God’s wondrous world,
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God’s hand the wonders wrought.

This is God’s wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white
declare their Maker’s praise.
This is God’s wondrous world,
God shines in all that’s fair
in the rustling grass or mountain pass
God speaks to me everywhere.

This is God’s wondrous world:
O let me ne’er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God’s wondrous world
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring.
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Benediction

-contributed by Capt. (Rev.) Nathan Wright, Chaplain, The Royal New Brunswick Regiment, Fredericton, NB

L: Remember the sacrifices of those who have gone before us.
P: Take up the whole armour of God and remain steadfast.
L: Fasten the belt of truth around your waist and put on the breastplate of righteousness.
P: Put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.
L: May the grace of God, the love of Christ, and the hope of the Spirit be with you now and always. Amen.

Choral Amen

Extinguish the Christ Candle

The Lament