

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious King!
Long live our noble King!
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On him be pleased to pour,
Long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

THE BLESSING

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth and all people, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and remain with you and with all whom you love this day and always.

Amen.

As the service ends, the parade marshal will seek permission from the Mayor of Dudley to dismiss the parade. The parade will be asked to remain in situ while the Mayoral party leave the dais and make their way back to the town hall. The parade, led by the band, will then march to the town hall to join them.

It is requested that members of the public remain in place until the civic party and the parade have left.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE IN DUDLEY

12 NOVEMBER 2023



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE AT THE CENOTAPH

Coronation Gardens, Ednam Road at 10.45am

The Reverend James Treasure, Dudley Team Ministry

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

We meet to worship in the presence of God, and to remember with thanksgiving and sorrow people whose lives have been given and taken away in world wars and conflicts, past and present, around the globe and at home.

We are here to pray for all the people who in bereavement, disability and pain, continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terrorism. We have come together to commit ourselves to work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations, and within nations, that all people may together live in freedom, justice and peace.

HYMN - O GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

O 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.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

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

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

READING - PSALM 23 - THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD

READ BY THE REVEREND JAMES TREASURE

HYMN - BE STILL MY SOUL

Be still my soul the Lord is on thy side
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain
Leave to thy God to order and provide
In every change He faithful will remain

Be still my soul thy best, thy heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end

Be still, my soul, thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake
All now mysterious shall be bright at last

Be still, my soul, the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below

THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE WILL COMMENCE

The Minister says:

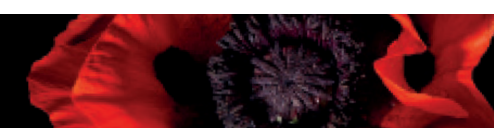
Let us remember before God and commend to God's sure keeping
people who have died for their country in war;
loved ones whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure;
and all who have lived and died in the service of humankind.

THE TRIBUTE LED BY DAVID BISSELL, CHAIRMAN OF DUDLEY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

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.

All repeat: We will remember them.

THE REFLECTION REVEREND JAMES TREASURE



THE LAST POST IS SOUNDED

At 11 am **The two minutes silence** are kept in trust with all who have died

The Reveille is played

The **Kohima Epitaph** is spoken

When you go home tell them of us and say,

For your tomorrow we gave our today

WREATH LAYING

The Minister leads the prayer:

Ever-living God we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

READING - MICAH 4:1-5

READ BY THE MAYOR OF DUDLEY, COUNCILLOR ANDREA GODDARD

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

BY RICHARD BOOT OBE, DEPUTY LIEUTENANT OF THE WEST MIDLANDS

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

HYMN - ABIDE WITH ME

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 need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's
power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine,
Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy
victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy 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.

SUNSET VIGIL

BY STAFF SERGEANT ANDREW MCFARLANE, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S CORPS, WRITTEN DURING HIS SECOND TOUR IN AFGHANISTAN, READ BY A STUDENT FROM DUDLEY COLLEGE

The news is spread far and wide
Another comrade has sadly died
A sunset vigil upon the sand
As a soldier leaves this foreign land

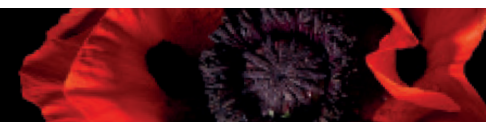
We stand alone, and yet as one
In the fading light of a setting sun
We've all gathered to say goodbye
To our fallen comrade who's set to fly

The eulogy's read about their life
Sometimes with words from pals or wife
We all know when the CO's done
What kind of soldier they'd become

The padre then calls us all to pray
The bugler has Last Post to play
The cannon roars and belches flame
We will recall, with pride, their name

A minute's silence stood in place
As tears roll down the hardest face
Deafening silence fills the air
With each of us in personal prayer

Reveille sounds and the parade is done
The hero remembered, forgotten by none
They leave to start the journey back
In a coffin draped in the Union Jack



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God give us peace.

For the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God.

God give us peace

God give us peace.

For those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss.

God give us peace

God give us peace.

For all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return.

God give us peace

God give us peace.

For all whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity.

God give us peace

God give us peace.

For all who offer leadership among the nations of the world today and for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.

God give us peace

God give us peace.

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us dignity as we pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

Amen.

Gathering our prayers and remembrance into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

All are invited to join in saying **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.***

AN ACT OF COMMITMENT TO PEACE

READ BY A CADET FROM 347 DUDLEY, ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

We will.

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

We will.

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

We will.

The Minister leads the prayer:

Merciful God,
we offer to you the fears in us
that have not yet been cast out by love:
May we accept the hope you have placed
in the hearts of all people,
and live lives of justice, courage and mercy;
through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer.

Amen.

