



# Act of Remembrance

Sunday 12 November 2023

at 10.50 am

## The War Memorial

On behalf of the Billericay Branch of the Royal British Legion, please can we ask that if you, or your organisation, are laying a wreath, to make your way to Chequers Corner prior to the start of our Act of Remembrance.

### Gathering Together

We have come together this morning in the presence of Almighty God. We come in gratitude: for all who have died in war so that we might live; for all who have endured pain that we might know joy; and for all who suffered internment that we might know freedom. We commit ourselves to work, in penitence and faith, for reconciliation between nations, that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace. We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror. We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts, both past and present, have been given and taken away.

**Almighty God, we confess that we have not always listened to your call. Through our Act of Remembrance today, help us to: hear your word; sing your praise; and bring our prayers to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) Praise my soul the King of heaven,<br>To His feet thy tribute bring;<br>Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,<br>Who like thee His praise should sing?<br>Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him!<br>Praise the everlasting King. | 3) Father-like, He tends and spares us;<br>Well our feeble frame He knows,<br>In His hands He gently bears us,<br>Rescues us from all our foes.<br>Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him!<br>Widely as His mercy flows.  |
| 2) Praise Him for His grace and favour<br>To our fathers in distress;<br>Praise Him still the same for ever,<br>Slow to chide and swift to bless.<br>Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him!<br>Glorious in His faithfulness.        | 4) Angels in the height, adore Him;<br>Ye behold Him face to face;<br>Sun and moon, bow down before Him<br>Dwellers all in time and space.<br>Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him!<br>Praise with us the God of grace. |

Henry F. Lyte (1793-1847). Reproduced under CCL License Number: 2646

Today, many people around the world will observe two minutes silence. Have you ever wondered what goes through other people's minds for those two minutes? For older people, there may be memories of wartime; for younger people, questions about why we continue this practice. However, it is, for all of us, an opportunity to pray quietly: for those who were bereaved through war; for those who still suffer because of war; for the present areas of trouble in the world; and for peace. Younger people might like to think about the sadness of war, boys and girls who have been made orphans by war and by thanking God for the peace we have today.

## *Remembering*

Let us remember before God the men and women of all nations who have died as a result of war; those whom we have known and whose memory we treasure; those we never knew; and those who died unknown. We will remember all who have lived in hope but died in vain; the tortured; the innocent; the starving; the exiled; the imprisoned; the oppressed; and the disappeared. Eternal God, holy and true, holy and compassionate: we remember before You those who have made profound sacrifices so that we may live in peace and freedom; those who gave their lives in overcoming evil; those who give their lives in maintaining peace; those who mourn the loved ones they have lost; and those who bear the scars that never heal.

An Older Person says:      *They shall grow not old, as we who are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.*

A Younger Person replies: *At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.*

**All:**                                **We will remember them.**

## *The Last Post*

Followed by TWO MINUTES SILENCE

## *The Reveille*

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.**

## *A Reading From The Bible*

**The Lord's My Shepherd (Psalm 23 verses 1 to 6)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) Abide with me fast falls the eventide,<br>The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide;<br>When other helpers fail and comforts flee,<br>Help of the helpless, O abide with me.                                | 2) Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;<br>Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;<br>Change and decay in all around I see;<br>O Thou who changest not, abide with me.                              |
| 3) I need your presence every passing hour:<br>What but Thy grace<br>can foil the tempter's power?<br>Who like Thyself<br>my guide and strength can be?<br>Through cloud and sunshine,<br>Lord, abide with me! | 4) Hold now your cross before my closing eyes;<br>Shine through the gloom,<br>and point me to the skies,<br>Heaven's morning breaks,<br>and earth's vain shadows flee;<br>In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me. |

## *We Pray Together As A Community*

Let us pray together as a community for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may 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:

May God give us His peace

**May God give us His peace**

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

May God give us His peace

**May God give us His peace**

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

May God give us His peace

**May God give us His peace**

For civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity:

May God give us His peace

**May God give us His peace**

For peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free; and for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace:

May God give us His peace

**May God give us His 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 the grace to 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.

**AMEN.**

## *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. 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, forever and forever. AMEN.**

*This order of service is based on material prepared for use across the nation by the Royal British Legion in partnership with Churches Together in Great Britain and Ireland.*

*This service will be relayed into Saint Mary Magdalen Church for those who struggle to stand for any length of time. Afterwards, once the Parade has left the vicinity of the War Memorial, refreshments will be served in 'The Church in the High Street.'*

*The Rector (Paul) is leaving Billericay to take up the post of Chaplain to the Anglican Church in Paphos, Cyprus in January 2024. His last service takes place at Emmanuel, Laindon Road, on Sunday 26 November at 3.00 pm - you are invited to attend.*

## *The Laying of Wreaths*

**Members of the Armed Forces and Associations, Civic and Community Groups, Churches and Service Organisations, Businesses, Schools and Members of the Public will be called out in turn to lay their wreaths and pay their respects.**

**During the Laying of Wreaths, the names of the Servicemen recorded on the War Memorial will be read out: 62 men from World War I and 54 men from World War II.**

After the last wreath has been laid, the Kohima Epitaph is said:

*When you go home, tell them of us and say: For your tomorrow we gave our today.*

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service:

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?	<b>We will</b>
Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?	<b>We will</b>
Will you work for a just future for all humanity?	<b>We will</b>

**Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love; may we accept that 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.**

## *The National Anthem*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) God save our gracious King,<br>Long live our noble King,<br>God save the King!<br>Send him victorious,<br>Happy and Glorious,<br>Long to reign over us:<br>God save the King! | 2) Thy choicest gifts in store<br>On him be pleased to pour;<br>Long may he reign;<br>May he defend our laws,<br>And ever give us cause<br>To sing with heart and voice,<br>God save the King! |
|--|--|

## *Closing Prayer*

**Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all mankind, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope and keep us faithful to you, now and always. AMEN.**

## *The Final Blessing*



[www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk)

[www.billericaychurchestogether.org](http://www.billericaychurchestogether.org)

[www.billericaychurches.org](http://www.billericaychurches.org)

[www.emmanuel-church.info](http://www.emmanuel-church.info)

