

Welcome to our Remembrance Day service this 8th November 2020, a bit different this year with all the restrictions, but we will do our best to honour and respect the memory of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the many conflicts over this world in the past and even today. We will remember them. Let us also remember those who suffer PTSD and other wounds that they bear in body and mind after the trauma of serving.

Edict....

EDICTAL INTIMATION OF ADMISSION

Ardrossan & Saltcoats Kirkgate Parish Church

Whereas, the Presbytery of Ardrossan has received a Call from this congregation addressed to the Revd Nigel Chikanya to be their minister, and the said Call has been sustained as a regular Call, and has been accepted by him;
And whereas, the said Presbytery, having judged the said Revd Nigel Chikanya qualified for this Charge, has resolved to proceed to his Induction on Thursday the nineteenth day of November 2020 at 7.00pm unless something occurs which may reasonably impede it:

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that if they, or any of them, have anything to object to in the life or doctrine of the said Rev Nigel Chikanya they may contact the Presbytery Clerk with the relative certification no later than 7.00pm on Wednesday the eighteenth day of November 2020. A representation of Presbytery will meet at 6.45pm at Ardrossan and Saltcoats Kirkgate Parish Church on Thursday the nineteenth day of November 2020 at 6.45pm. If no relevant objection be made and immediately substantiated, the Presbytery will proceed without further delay.

By order of the Presbytery

Even in these troubled times, of lock down restrictions, even in the midst of turmoil we find good news, we see a light at the tunnels end and a hope for the future. It is good news indeed that Nigel will be with you all before the end of this month and then you can find the footing to move forward together. May your paths be close and agreeable and may God's love cover Nigel and his family as he gets used to Ayrshire and learns the language of Saltcoats.

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One further intimation for you - There is to be a KS meeting on Thursday 12th November at 8pm via Zoom. They have been sent all the necessary details!

The peace of our Lord Jesus reign in their hearts as it must in ours.

Let us hear our Call to worship this Remembrance Sunday and as we remember I will light these candles that their light and warmth might remind us of those whom we knew and loved and who shine as brightly in our thoughts and warm the hearts of all of us who remember them in all their humanity. Our mums and dads who served, our brothers and sister cousins and friends all.

From the darkness of death,
God calls us into glorious light.
From the tumult of war,
God call us into the beauty of peace.
Children of light,
God calls us today to remembrance.
In light and in peace,
we will remember them.

Opening Hymn

CH4 715 – “Behold, the mountain of the Lord” – a Remembrance Sunday classic sung to the tune Glasgow. The paraphrase picks up on the themes of a mountain-top banquet of peace which transforms our warring ways

1. Behold! the mountain of the Lord
In latter days shall rise
On mountain tops above the hills,
And draw the wondering eyes.

2. To this the joyful nations round,
All tribes and tongues, shall flow;
Up to the hill of God, they'll say,
And to his house we'll go.

3. The beam that shines from Zion hill
Shall lighten every land;
The King who reigns in Salem's towers
Shall all the world command.

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4. Among the nations he shall judge;
His judgements truth shall guide;
His sceptre shall protect the just,
And quell the sinner's pride.

5. No strife shall rage, nor hostile feuds
Disturb those peaceful years;
To ploughshares men shall beat their swords,
To pruning-hooks their spears.

6. No longer hosts encountering hosts
Shall crowds of slain deplore:
They hand the trumpet in the hall,
And study war no more.

7. Come then, O house of Jacob! come
To worship at his shrine;
And, walking in the light of God,
With holy beauties shine.

Let us pray

Approach to God

Gather us into Your presence, God of peace.
We trust that Your vision for the world –
the great creation of Your imagination,
entrusted to us as a place for our flourishing –
is still there behind all the challenges of our lives.

We come today remembering that even in the darkest of days, Your
flame of hope and new life flickers
drawing us on to find the good
and to illuminate the world with Your Gospel of love.

Help us to find You in the smallest of things
and the most ordinary of our experiences.

We live in You,
the great mystery of our being
which is beyond our understanding –
yet revealed –in the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Your Son
Jesus Christ. You are always there underpinning our lives,
offering to us all that we need to live well.

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Yet We fall into ways of war when Your ways are of peace.
On this day of remembrance,
when we pay tribute to those who have given so much when war
became the way,
we confess the faults of nations who have gone to war and forgotten
Your ways of peace,

God of all,
Your ways are of mercy,
Your heart is for reconciliation,
so help us to accept the hand of forgiveness that You offer.

Help us to leave behind what has weighed us down,
to seek the ways of friendship and peace,
and to trust that You want the best for us.

Bring us the peace of being part of Your offering of forgiveness to
others,
and to embrace our role of being peacemakers in the course of our
ordinary lives for we pray all these things in Jesus name and repeat that
prayer He taught His disciples
when we say together
**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 debts
as we forgive our debtors,
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
For Thine is the Kingdom the power and the glory
for ever
Amen.**

[Bible Reading from Matthew 5 verses 38-48](#)

[Let us hear the word of the Lord from the Good News Translation](#)

Teaching about Revenge

38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ **39** But now I tell you: do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, let him slap your left cheek too. **40** And if someone takes you to court to sue you for your shirt, let him have your coat as well. **41** And if one of the occupation troops forces you to carry his pack one mile, carry it two miles. **42** When someone asks you for something, give it to him; when someone wants to borrow something, lend it to him.

Love for Enemies

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your friends, hate your enemies.’ **44** But now I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45** so that you may become the children of your Father in heaven. For he makes his sun to shine on bad and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do good and to those who do evil. **46** Why should God reward you if you love only the people who love you? Even the tax collectors do that! **47** And if you speak only to your friends, have you done anything out of the ordinary? Even the pagans do that! **48** You must be perfect—just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

[Amen and may God bless this reading to our minds and hearts.](#)

My Short Sermon and Reflection today is entitled: No one wins

Harry Patch Britain’s last surviving veteran who died in 2009 never spoke of the horrors of the first world war until he was 100. From his story of the hell that he witnessed on the fields of France it made him question the “war to end all wars” and said before his death: “It wasn’t worth it. No war is worth it. No war is worth the loss of a couple of lives let alone thousands.

“No one wins, better to talk at the start for you always end up talking at the end”

Our wars are very different today, more nuanced, more of an enemy within, however, we remember all those from all wars and conflicts today, and especially the generations of the past who gave of their lives in the name of peace, justice and freedom in the two great wars. Those who fell on the battlefield that we might live the lives we live today. Some will still have memories of the last world war, the second

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one. Some will remember the Falklands or the Middle East wars. Yet after the first world war nearly a whole generation of young people, mainly young men and boys some of them, were taken from us before the cry went up “ Never Again”.

Never again may seem like wishful thinking knowing what we all know of history repeating itself. Loving ones enemies and turning the other cheek might seem like foolishness and wishful thinking.

But its better to talk at the start because you always end up talking at the end. Better to seek agreement and climb down before the horror of war, the evil of war can begin and only after the bloodiest of battles do we then speak of reconciliation and count the cost in lives and homes.

Jesus points out a new way to look at conflict for the Christian. We are not to put ourselves to the task of killing and demanding retaliation.

Jesus lived at a time where memories of the massacres and the battles between the jews and Roman forces who killed and maimed thousands and razed towns and cities was clearly felt in the near middle east.

There was deep seated hot resentment and hatred of the Roman occupiers from many that would bubble to the surface as insurgency now and then and it would be very cruelly put down with massive force.

In such a context then can you imagine the teaching of Jesus when He sits on a lovely grassy hillside overlooking Lake Galilee and talks of loving an enemy, not seeking revenge, or turning the other cheek, or going that extra mile for someone who forces you to carry a load for them just as Simon from the Greek area of Cyrene had to do in carrying Jesus cross part ways towards Calgary.

Wars begin with a Tit for Tat mentality in the main. You invade us or them or hurt us or them and we will hurt you. But the retaliation will maybe be disproportionate, we may give you such a beating that you will never be able to do such a thing again.

We have only time to consider one aspect of this teaching this morning, but it is important that we tackle the incendiary attitude that brings forth the spark that starts wars, or conflict in nations and even within a family.

Let us briefly consider the fairness of retaliation.

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We might say of the enemy we defeat, those who would do harm to us “They deserved all they got, they started it”. It was their fault. Our playground remonstrations when we were but babies.

We might say the same on a very much smaller scale of those around us who engage in a vendetta, on a campaign of hate.

“They deserved all they got, we have no sympathy for them”. We might hear said of the enemy, “We will never forgive them”. And we might quote the most famously quoted phrase that even those who are not in the least religious know - “An eye for an eye a tooth for a tooth”.

Then we read in our Bibles that ‘Yes’ that is the way of the old Mosaic law. A law that has been in existence well before the OT was ever thought of, for it is written in the annals of time from the earliest of civilisation. The law of Tit for Tat. Called in Latin: **lex talionis** - the principle that a person who has injured another person is to be penalised to a similar degree by the injured party.

Hurt me and mine and the law allows me to do an equal amount of hurt to you and yours. It is found in the Old Testament where we read:

‘If any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe’ (Exodus 21:23–5). (Leviticus 24:19–20).(Deuteronomy 19:21).

You have heard it said an eye for an eye a tooth for a tooth. The law of Tit for Tat. At first it may seem a bloodthirsty idea, but before we become too judgemental what did such a law really mean.

This idea of Tit for Tat, an equal response in retaliation allowed judgement on the amount of reparation, physical or monetary that should be given to the injured person. Over time it became a matter of monetary payment mostly an amount of silver in reparation and the ancient laws were carried into the Jewish way of life and recorded in the OT. A strangely modern concept in essence, paying damages.

The law of tit for tat was made to even out the reposes to such acts that threatened one tribe with annihilation at the hand of another where one member may have been injured either physically or simply snubbed and hurt of pride.

Jesus quotes the law.

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for

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those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

The radical new idea He brings is corroborated by Paul in His apostle to the Romans

Romans 12:19, NIV: "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord."

Unfortunately there will always be times this side of 'Judgement Day' where we need to defend our vulnerable and our freedom against tyranny. The first purpose of ones government to protect the people of the nations. Jesus is saying that we don't know who we are fighting. All human life was made in Gods image.

But the risk is that all the thoughts of loving ones neighbour, turning the other cheek and seeing peace and justice go flying out the window as soon as a gun is fired, a bomb detonated or a harsh word uttered.

Best not get there Jesus might say. You see the love he speaks of we visited in a sermon some months ago. We looked at the different types of love, from the sentimental, brotherly and lustful loves that humans experience. But we looked mainly at Agape or charitable love. A love that will see the enemy treated with compassion and fairness. Given the benefit of being a human being made by God.

A love shown and acted upon that transcends hate and war.

A love that seeks peace and reconciliation in a deeper way, not just appeasement or capitulation, but a love that brings an end to the very root of the problem through tough dialogue. An act that needs to be taken early before the tools of war are being made and stored and ready. Before Tyrants get a grip on the nations. You may say many tried and failed and that is the tragedy of evil in our midst where nothing will stop the tyranny, but try we must.

Sure we may face a hard task persuading others to follow Christ's lead on this, we may have to endure some awful opposition and discrimination. As we witness for Christ we might have to suffer the indignity of being struck in the face so to speak by hand or words. But in turning the other cheek we might show that we will not rise to the bate,

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we will not show hate for hate and will not go toe to toe in the fight. That is not the Christian way.

You see to strike one on the right cheek it must be with the back of the hand and that was a very deep insult in ancient times. Easier then to strike the left cheek also. Jesus is saying whatever insult and deep indignity we are to suffer let it not stir us to violence or revenge, but let the perpetrator also strike us once more for it should not goad us beyond our Christian duty to seek peace. We are to remember whatever this world asks of us is of little importance to our well being really, for we are aliens in this land as we live out our time here doing as much good as we can before stepping into the next chapter of life with Jesus in Glory. For we march in our eternal life even now.

Yet many peopled some brothers and sisters in Christ die in battle every day. Sometimes it is just is too hard Lord we cry!
Much as we try to live with pacifist ideology, it is hard and we must never disparage their sacrifice for in losing their life they have gained life in Christ. They have gained a few more days of security and freedom for us all.

Yet what Jesus is speaking of is a law of mercy, a way of reaching out that hopefully might bring peace. Jesus told us we would always have strife, but He also gave us ways to combat that with a different attitude towards the atrocity of war where retaliation should not be the only thought we possess, however we coach it or try to justify it as deserved or in defence. Let us do away with the thoughts of 'lex talionis', tit for tat and seek a better way with Jesus for in the end we know only to vividly of conflict, no one wins,

No one wins, We must talk in the end anyway.

Amen

Cumulative 21mins

Reflective music

CH4 721 – “We lay our broken world” – this beautiful hymn with its simple and wistful melody is clear-eyed in recognising the broken aspects of our humanity, but ultimately offers a vision of renewal that encourages us to live towards a better world

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WE LAY OUR BROKEN WORLD (Brian to recite the words of this hymn in total and Stuart to play 2 or 3 verses following)

We lay our broken world
In sorrow at your feet,
Haunted by hunger, war and fear,
Oppressed by power and hate.

Where human life seems less
That profit, might and pride,
Though to unite us all in you
You lived and loved and died.

We bring our broken towns,
Our neighbours hurt and bruised;
You show us how old pain and wounds
For new life can be used.

We bring our broken hopes
For lives of dignity;
Workless and overworked you love
And call us to be free.

We bring our broken loves,
Friends parted, families torn;
Then in your life and death we see
That love must be reborn.

We bring our broken selves,
Confused and closed and tired;
Then through your gift of healing grace
New purpose is inspired.

O Spirit, on us breathe,
With life and strength anew;
Find in us love, and hope and trust,
And lift us up to you.

Let us pray.

Thanksgiving and intercession

Loving Lord God,

Hear us now as we offer our prayers of thanksgiving
for all the good in our lives.

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On this day, we hold with gratitude the service of those who are peacemakers in their service of our country.

We are grateful for a vision that will hold the darker forces of our humanity in check with an ethos of cooperation, harmony and mutual flourishing.

We pray for the dedicated service of our armed forces in all the generations, remembering especially those who still remain with us from the Second World War. We thank You for their testimony which reminds us of the tragedy of conflict.

Help us to hear it

even as we honour the sacrifices made in search of the good.

On this day when we are drawn together from many backgrounds, and with faith flickering, strong, or with no faith, we thank You that there are times and causes around which we can all rally for the common good.

Help us to find that common ground more, and to work through our differences.

May the example of Jesus, His boundary-crossing life, His open-hearted embrace of all peoples, be the inspiration for our weary and wounded world.

We hold before You all of our leaders, praying for tenacity, energy, and an open-eyed, open-hearted vision for our communities and the world.

On this day of remembrance, we pray for those who have lost loved-ones in conflict, and through the collateral damage of war. For those suffering PTSD and other wounds of the mind and body that serve to remind them constantly of the trauma they witnessed and suffered. God have mercy upon them and bring healing where it is needed to those we love and respect.

We think of those close to home in our army, navy and air force. We remember those on the other side to us in conflict, and we think of the deep scars of conflict that mark our world whenever there is war.

May our remembering be for new beginnings, so that lives lost are the foundations of new worlds. May the vision of the prophets be our vision too. May Your forgiveness be our forgiveness.

God of the cross and the empty tomb,

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God of the road to Emmaus
and the breakfast on the shore.

You have shown us in Jesus the way that is beyond death, so hold us in
the faith of Your future.

Help us to rest in the confidence of new light and life,
to trust that those we have loved and lost have returned to You, and that
our own walk is the way home
where You wait for us in the mystery of eternal life.

May our prayers rise to You like incense, God our maker, our saviour
and sustainer.

Loving Lord God we commit our love offering into Your employ, sure of
the integrity of those who administer it on Your behalf in the furtherance
of Your Kingdom of peace here on earth.

In all our prayers today Abba Father draw close to us now for we bring
them in the precious name of Jesus and for His sake.

Amen

Please be upstanding now as we come near our time of silence

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**As we approach our time to pay our respects by
standing in our places for two minutes we
remember the first minute is for thankfulness that
they sacrificed for our sakes and the second for
remembrance of the sacrifices made and for those
who never came home alive.**

**Let us observe that
2 minute silence now:- 11am**

Brian says - after the silence is over.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

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**Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.**

From: For the Fallen
BY LAURENCE BINYON

please take a seat.

Closing Hymn: CH4 159 Lord for the Years (Brian recited 2 verses
Stuart plays 2)

Verse 1

Lord, for the years
your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us,
cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us,
pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years,
we bring our thanks today.

Verse 2

Lord, for that word,
the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts
and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains,
rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word,
receive your people's praise.

Verse 3

Lord, for our land
in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by
pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old,
for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land,

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be pleased to hear our prayer.

Verse 4

Lord, of our world
where men disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength,
and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless,
lost indeed without you;
Lord of the world,
we pray that Christ may reign.

Verse 5

Lord, of ourselves,
in living power remake us
self on the cross
and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us,
for the future take us;
Lord of our lives,
to live for Christ alone.

Well thank you for being with us here in the hall and online or the telephone on this special remembrance day.

Once again remember the Kirkgate by Request broadcast tonight - may it bring hope, cheer and remembrance all at the same time.

Please stand once more for the blessing.

Let us pray:

Collect

Lord of the ages,
our hope in times of trouble,
and our consolation in grief;
bring us a spirit of renewal,
so that Your people may honour those who have given their lives in
service to their country in conflict.
May their service kindle in us the desire for peace and unity, which is
Your hope for all people.

Blessing

And now may the God of love fill Your heart with peace and send You
into the world to live it.

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And the blessing of God Almighty,
our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
be with You and those You love, this day and always
Amen

The National Anthem.

Please take a seat.