

An Order of Service for Armistice Day



The Gathering

Armistice Day is commemorated every year on 11 November to mark the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany at Compiègne, France, at 5:45 am for the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I, which took effect at eleven in the morning—the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918. But shelling from both sides continued for the rest of the day, ending only at nightfall. The armistice initially expired after a period of 36 days and had to be extended several times. A formal peace agreement was only reached when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on 28 June 1919 in the Palace of Versailles, exactly five years after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which led to World War 1.

So today we commemorate, remember, and honour the armistice 'movement' which marked the cessation of hostilities and began the healing of the nations.

Reading: Isaiah 2. 1-4

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; 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 more.

We meet in the presence of God.
We commit ourselves to work
in penitence and faith
for reconciliation between the 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 past and present,
have been given and taken away.

Poem. The Eleventh Hour

Have you still got your tin hat with you,
Old pal who has gone before?
Do you still wear the dear old uniform
That I knew in the days of war?
What's it like there across the border,
Now you've taken the long, long trail?
Do you wake to the call of reveille?
And still hear retreat's last wail?

Grand! Grand! was your smile at parting,
And the look in your fading eyes,
As you signed your transfer papers
To the Army beyond the skies.
I'd like to have seen your greeting
At the Heavenly Barrack gate,
When the Great White Chief, with His hand outstretched,
Said "Welcome!" and "Well done, mate!"

Old man-we miss you badly,
You were always a darned good sort,
And we gather together once a year
Just to think of you, old sport.
And we're wondering very sadly
If you're thinking of us that way,
As the clock booms out the eleventh hour
Of the eleventh month and day.

Goodbye! old boy, I must leave you,
Things aren't too good down here ;
But! we're playing the game as you did,
For the sake of your memory dear.
And, perchance, at the last reveille,
When the Great Chief calls His men,
I too shall be there beside you,
With my hand in yours again.

Herbert Swaffield.

Role of Honour:

From our South Hykeham Village and Community

**1914 – 1918 George Costall
Ernest Swindale**

The Crew of the Manchester Bomber which crashed in this village on the 15th September 1941

**Ernest Crump
John Sawyer
John Clements
Norman Mathison
Leslie Carter
John Riding
Harold Winter
Reginald Boyd
James Grace
Jack Lister**

Laying of Wreaths

*We will
remember them*



Remembering:

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.

We will remember them.

Silence is kept for two minutes.

The Kohima Epitaph is said

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

A Prayer of Petition for those affected by war

God of justice and peace,
we pray for those who have been injured
or disabled through war.
For those who have lost homes
and security through conflict;
for those who have lost loved relatives in wars;
for those who face danger and take risks for peace;
for all those, especially children, caught up in current conflicts;
for refugees and all those in need of aid and other help.

God of encouragement
and Saviour of the despairing,
comfort those who remember past sacrifices
and guide us in building
a just and peaceful community for all.

Amen.

A Prayer for Peacemakers

History can inspire or trap.
Walls can protect or divide.
Words can encourage or inflame.
Power can free or destroy.
Touch can comfort or violate.
Peace can be shared or withheld.
Gracious God, on this day,
when we remember past and present conflicts,
we pray for the divided peoples of the world,
that leaders, governments and each one of us
may use our resources,
our opportunities and our lives
in the service of reconciliation,
for the sake of future generations
and to the glory of your name.

Amen.

A Prayer for Reconciliation

As one family, we reflect today on the horrors of the past that
continue
to haunt humanity and darken our world.
Lord, where pain still overwhelms, bring healing.
Where hearts are still breaking, bring comfort.
Where peoples are still oppressed, bring liberation.
Where communities are still victimised, bring justice.
Where children are still brutalised, bring compassion.
Where lives are still crushed, bring hope.
Where evil is perpetrated, bring repentance.
Where war still devastates, bring peace.
But most of all,
wherever a single voice cries out in the darkness,
bring us to one another,
in the name of the love you bear in your heart for all people,
all nations and all creation.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As we reflect upon the cost of serving our nation, so we pray:

**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.**

National Anthem

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

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

Final Blessing

God grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth,
and all mankind, peace and concord;
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit,
remain with you always.

Amen

