



A SERVICE OF WORSHIP TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR 1

**Hayfield Cenotaph and
St Matthew's Church, Hayfield
Monday, August 4th, 2014**

Artwork provided by local artist Steve Wise

Welcome to St Matthew's Church for this special commemoration of a time when our village community began to change dramatically. As young men went out to fight for what was expected to be only a few months, others managed at home without them. The losses and traumas of the years of war undoubtedly left their mark. Perspectives do change when violence hits home. Perhaps values of simplicity, forgiveness and family life come even more to the fore.

This evening we come with our thoughts of how it might have been 100 years ago. We come with the same needs of hope, courage and peace, for the places in our world where war and the everyday hurts of relationships go on today; we acknowledge our need of patience, forgiveness, generosity and openness to others if war is to be averted again; we bring our thankfulness for a safe and comfortable life in our village community; and we look to Jesus Christ, who knew suffering and pain, faced rejection and hatred, and speaks of hope, light and loving new beginnings.

It was written in the Buxton Advertiser on 1st August 1914- 'We are ready for war.' On this occasion tonight we recall those who waited, some in fear, others flushed with excitement at the thoughts of an impending battle, as they heard the news of the declaration of war.

We shall be using some of the resource material prepared by representatives of Westminster Abbey who have created the commemorative event to be televised later tonight. So we share in some small ways with those who meet at one of our foremost national symbols of Christian faith

The visual symbols of light and dark will be a focal point, as we remember the lights going out over Europe, but the hope of brightness to come

The parade is accompanied by the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service Pipe Band

AT THE CENOTAPH

WELCOME AND PRAYER

THE FALLEN

The names of those who died during WWI will be read

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

A single wreath of rosemary and white flowers, as symbols of remembrance and peace, will be laid.

The traditional exhortation will be spoken, with the response:

‘We will remember them’

A period of silence will be held, concluding with a prayer

SHORT BIBLE READING – ‘God’s covenant of Peace’

Ezekiel 36, verses 24-28

A PLEDGE OF PEACE *please join in saying together:*

**Lord God, Father of all,
we pledge ourselves
to serve you and this neighbourhood,
to bring relief to all who are in need,
and comfort to the sad, lonely, and distressed;
Keep us ever mindful of the struggles
and achievements of former generations,
and of this place where we make our home,
now, and in the days to come. Amen.**

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Please make your way into church directly for the continuation of the service

IN CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

HYMN

PRAISE TO THE LORD,

The almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him,
for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
Brothers and sisters, draw near,
Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord,
who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness
and mercy here daily attend thee:
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
Who with His love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord,
who when tempests their warfare are waging,
Who, when the elements
madly around thee are raging,
Biddeth them cease,
Turneth their fury to peace,
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

Praise to the Lord,
who, when darkness of sin is abounding,
Who, when the godless
do triumph, all virtue confounding,
Sheddeth His light,
Chaseth the horrors of night,
Saints with His mercy surrounding.
Praise to the Lord!

O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen
Sound from His people again:
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

BIDDING PRAYER

CONFESSION

After a word of introduction we join together, saying:

**Most merciful God,
gathered in the light of your Christ
we confess our share in the world's pride,
its greed and its despair, its violence and its darkness.
Free us from the tyranny of sin,
fill us with your peace,
and lead us from death to life, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Words of reassurance of forgiveness are spoken

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.**

HISTORICAL REFLECTION

POEM

‘1914’ by Wilfred Owen

HYMN

BE STILL, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here;
Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground;
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

BIBLE READING *Joel chapter 2, verses 1-4, 12-13*

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy hill.

Let all who live in the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming.

It is close at hand –

² a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and blackness.

Like dawn spreading across the mountains
a large and mighty army comes,
such as never was in ancient times
nor ever will be in ages to come.

Before them fire devours,
behind them a flame blazes.
Before them the land is like the garden of Eden,
behind them, a desert waste –
nothing escapes them.
⁴ They have the appearance of horses;
they gallop along like cavalry.

‘Even now,’ declares the LORD,
‘return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning.’

¹³ Rend your heart
and not your garments.
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
and he relents from sending calamity.

ADDRESS

PICTURES AND MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

The lights are dimmed as we think of the darker side of humanity in war

HYMN

GOD IS LOVE: let heaven adore Him;
God is love: let earth rejoice;
Let creation sing before Him
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth’s foundation,
He who spread the heavens above,
He who breathes through all creation,
He is love, eternal love.

God is love: and he enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace
With unfailing grasp he holdeth
every child of every race.
and when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
all the sorrow all the aching,
wrings with pain the heart of God.

God is love: and though with blindness
sin afflicts the souls of men,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides them even then.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love so love forever
o'er the universe must reign.

POEM *'To my Brother'* by Vera Brittain

Vera's brother was Capt. E.H. Brittain, M.C. and the poem was written four days before his death in action in the Austrian offensive on the Italian Front, June 15th 1918

SYMBOLS OF LIFE AND TIMES

Objects representing aspects of our community during war time are presented

BIBLE READING *Letter to the Romans chapter 8, verses 31 to the end*

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall

separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

‘For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

MUSIC ‘*Silent Noon*’ – composed by Ernest Farrar, based on a poem by D.G. Rossetti. Sung by Stephen Varcoe. The song reflects a picture of a peaceful English landscape. Ernest Farrar Studied music at the Royal College of Music but was enlisted into the Grenadier Guards in 1915 and was later killed on 18th September 1918 at the Battle of Epeny, Ronssoy, France.

Silent Noon

Your hands lie open in the long fresh grass-
The finger-points look through like rosy blooms.
Your eyes smile peace. The pasture gleams and glooms
‘neath billowing clouds that scatter and amass.
All round our nezt, far as the eye can pass
Are golden kingcup fields with silver edge
Where the cow-parsley skirts the hawthorn hedge.
‘Tis visible silence, still as the hour glass.

Deep in the sunsearched growths the dragonfly
Hangs like a blue thread loosened from the sky-
So this winged hour is dropt to u from above.
Oh! Clasp we to our hearts, for deathless dower,
This close-companioned inarticulate hour
When twofold silence was the song of love.

PRAYERS

CONTEMPORARY REFLECTION

HYMN

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.

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.

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, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for 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.

Lord for 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.

The lights are dimmed whilst words from John's gospel are read.

A candle is left standing by the church war memorial, in recognition of those who died in each World War and in other conflicts and in remembrance of those individuals at Home who showed their own courage and love to continue in everyday life. The light is a sign of hope for each future day.

You are invited to stay for refreshments

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