

St. James United Church

November 13, 2016/Remembrance Sunday/Peace

Minister: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Acting Minister of Visitation: Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray
Organist: Ashley Ruby
Choir: Senior
Choir Director: Emma Clark
Guest Musicians: The Church Lads' Brigade

Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.
Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.

The body of a man was found under a bombed house. He had entered it in the hope of rescuing someone. He was a conscientious objector. The newspaper caption said that he was not willing to give his life in order to take life, but was willing to give it in order to save life.

Musical Prelude & Remembrance Litany:

CLB

Last Post

Silence

Reveille

We remember them and are thankful for what they did for us.

Acknowledgement of land and people

Welcome and Life and Work of St. James

Lighting the Community Candle

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer: (together) God, we know You take no joy in death. We know You take no joy in our wars, in our battles, in our conflicts. We know that Your tears are for all Your children, of every land and race, of every time and place. We know that what You want for all creation is life-abundant. And so we ask for wisdom. We ask for guidance. We ask for peace. We ask for love and grace to surround this creation now, and forever. Amen.

Sharing The Peace:

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours.



Hymn: A Hymn of Remembrance (tune of The Church's One Foundation)
*O God of endless ages, whose will is still that we
Should live in peace and freedom, with love of liberty,
In prayer we now remember the death and dignity
Of those who sought to rescue this precious legacy.
They gave themselves for others whose names they did not know,
For God and for their country they vowed to overthrow
The infamous oppressor, their lives prepared to give.
With selflessness and courage they died that we might live.
The wars that now we're waging on crime and poverty,
Disease and much injustice, absorb our energy.
Yet often with indiff'rence we, in these latter days,
Forget the poppy's symbol their sacrifice portrays.
With each new generation, the memory further fades
Deep into history's pages, with tales of bygone days.
So may our children's children, as rich inheritors,
With us, O God, remember why freedom still endures.*
(Doreen M. Lankshear-Smith, 1982)

Children's Time

Hymn: *When Will People Cease Their Fighting?* 687

Offering Invitation

Offering

Offertory Hymn: *Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands* 537

Prayer of Dedication: (together) We lift up these gifts to You, O God, as symbols of our commitment to the ministry of peace with justice in our world. May these gifts work to challenge systems that exploit people and the larger community of creation. May these gifts nurture alternatives to hate, violence and abuse. May we continue to gift our world with creativity, commitment, and compassion as we live Your love when we leave here today. Amen.

Reflection 1: Rachelle Moss

Centering Silence

Reflection 2: Bryan Snow

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 65: 17-25

Anthem: *Remember (arr. Stephen Chatman)* Choir
*Remember me when I am gone away, gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand, nor I half turn to go yet turning
stay.
Remember me when no more day by day you tell me of our future that you
plann'd:
Only remember me; you understand it will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while and afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave a vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile than that you should remember and be
sad.* (Poem by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894).

Gospel: Luke 21: 5-19

Hymn: *For the Healing of the Nations* 678

Reflection 3: Hannah Sheppard

Prayer of Peace: (together) Loving God, save us from weak resignation to violence. Teach us that restraint is the highest expression of power, that thoughtfulness and tenderness are marks of the strong. Help us to love our enemies, not by countenancing their sins, but by remembering our own. And may we never for a moment forget that they are fed by the same food, hurt by the same weapons, have children for whom they have the same high hopes as we do. Grant us the ability to find joy and strength not in the strident call to arms, but to grasp our fellow creatures in the striving for justice and truth. We ask this and the prayers we hold in our hearts as we say together Our Father...

Hymn *O Day of Peace* 682

Parting Words: (responsive)

One: The days pass and the years vanish, and we walk sightless among miracles.
May our eyes be filled with seeing and our minds with knowing.

**All: As the sun rises each day in perfect newness, so may we break upon each
new day with splendour and expectation**

Benediction

Musical Postlude CLB
