

This short act of worship has been produced for you by Sandra Rose. If you are well enough and able, why not spend a few moments with God, perhaps at a time when you would normally be sharing with others in church and pray for them as they pray for you.

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

### Call to worship

Isaiah 2: 3&4

<sup>3</sup> Many peoples will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the temple of the God of Jacob.  
He will teach us his ways,  
so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion,  
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He will judge between the nations  
and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,  
nor will they train for war anymore.

### Hymn: StF 470: Lord for the Years

*Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here:*

<https://youtu.be/RkkYUEcN234?si=-5ngKFmJ2Dovo32i>

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, when we disown and doubt him,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him;  
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.

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (b, 1926)*

### Prayers of Approach and confession

God our Father, we worship and adore you;

You are all majesty and all might, unimaginably great, alone in power and strength.

You have fought against evil and crushed it; yet you have also redeemed us in love and in pity, and cared for us all the days of our life.

Above all, you have sent your Son Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind.

All earthly powers and authorities were overcome by him; he triumphed over them in his glorious majesty.

Through him let us put off our corruption and wickedness; let us rise with him to new life, through faith in your power and your glory, to whom be praise for ever and ever.

Amen

God our Father, we confess before you our own ingratitude and wickedness. When we should have been thankful, we have forgotten you; when we should have worked for you, we have given our energies to our own concerns. We have neglected our duty as children of God: we have been lukewarm in our worship, fainthearted in our prayers, and lazy in the study of your word. Help us, Lord, to change our sinful natures and be born again to a new life of service and dedication to you. May we be rooted in Christ,

built up in him, and established through him in the faith; through him who took our sins and nailed them to his Cross – Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

### **Assurance of forgiveness**

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

He says to each and every one of us,  
“Go in peace. Your sins are forgiven.” Amen, thanks be to God

### **Bible reading**

Haggai 2: 1 - 9

New International Version

### **The Promised Glory of the New House**

In the second year of King Darius, <sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup> on the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: <sup>2</sup> “Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, to Joshua son of Jozadak, <sup>[a]</sup> the high priest, and to the remnant of the people. Ask them, <sup>3</sup> ‘Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing? <sup>4</sup> But now be strong, Zerubbabel,’ declares

the LORD. ‘Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,’ declares the LORD, ‘and work. For

I am with you,' declares the LORD Almighty. <sup>5</sup>'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'

<sup>6</sup>"This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. <sup>7</sup>I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD Almighty. <sup>8</sup>'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the LORD Almighty. <sup>9</sup>'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty."

### Reflection

So it's Remembrance Sunday and the reading concentrates on rebuilding what was lost in war. In 538 the Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem following their exile in Babylon. Finally, in 520 BC, after the prodding of Haggai the prophet, they begin to rebuild the temple. In our reading, Haggai seeks to encourage those who see the second temple 'like nothing' in comparison with Solomon's temple. Yet their small beginnings herald something far 'greater than the glory of the former house.'

The date of the prophecy is October 17<sup>th</sup> 520 BC exactly 440 years since the dedication of Solomon's temple. Restoration work had been underway for over three weeks and the paltry dimensions of

the second temple are now evident to all. Obviously those who remembered Solomon's temple were less than impressed.

The word to Zerubbabel, and to Joshua the high priest is for them to be bold and be strong in the face of this small beginning. The Lord will be with his people as he was in the days of the Exodus.

The shaking of the heavens, earth, sea and dry land reminds us of the wonders of the Exodus and heralds a new Exodus beyond that of the present returnees. The shaking of the nations pictures them trembling before the Lord's mighty hand. The future glory of this small beginning will transcend 'the former house.' The Lord's divine sovereignty, displayed in his 'glory' will be recognised by the nations and 'the nations will come' bearing gold and silver to beautify the temple and in that coming they will find 'peace'.

Jesus' statement that faith as small as a mustard seed moves mountains is well reflected in Haggai's prophecy to the Jews who braved a return to Jerusalem after their Babylonian exile. The land was depopulated and ravaged. Rebuilding a structure capable of maintaining existence was one thing, having the time or resources to rebuild even a poor image of Solomon's temple, was another.

When Haggai begins his preaching in 520 BC he is critical of a people who have feathered their own nests rather than set to and built a house for the Lord. The people take his words seriously and

set about the rebuilding task. Three weeks later as the building starts to take shape, a sense of depression overtakes the workers. Older Jews can still well remember the wonders of Solomon's temple which was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC. This new structure is indeed a 'little thing'.

God's word to the workers through Haggai is a word of encouragement. Instead of being overcome with fear they should be strong, fearless and confident. His word to them is a call to faith. They need to do what he has covenanted with them. The agreement is simple he has asked them to rebuild the temple and in return the Lord will again dwell with his people.

The people are asked to see beyond this little thing to a temple filled with the Lord's presence, a presence which shakes the nations and draws them to his House by the radiance of his glory. In that day the nations will come bearing tribute and there find peace, wholeness. What better outcome for a people all but destroyed by the ravages of war?

### Intercessions

Loving God, we recognise our responsibility to encourage and uphold one another and to live together in peace and love. We also recognise our needs and our human weaknesses and come to you now with our prayers and petitions...

*(Short Silence)*

### Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Holy God, we pray for our church leaders, that they will be guided in their ministry by the influence of the Holy Spirit and that the Church, in the power of the Spirit, may make the Gospel understandable to people of every race, language, and culture. That the Holy Spirit of Peace may reconcile the peoples and nations of the earth, bringing an end to war, hatred, and discrimination

*(Short Silence)*

### Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God, we pray for your world, of which your Son is King. We pray for peace, reconciliation and healing in the places of war, hatred and terrorism, especial in Ukraine and Gaza We pray that the nations of this world may be united and subject to the rule of Christ the King, through whom and for whom all things were created. We pray for earthy Monarchs, especially Phillippe, King of Spain and our gracious sovereign King Charles. May their rules be guided and influenced by the example set by your son Jesus Christ.

*(Short Silence)*

### Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Mighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women in who serve in the Navy, the Army, or the Air

Force, at home and abroad. Defend all who face danger and put their lives at risk so that others might live in safety and give them courage to face the perils of active service. Comfort all worried families, whose loved ones are in danger: surround them with your love, protect them from all harm and help them to know that nothing can separate them from your love.

*(Short Silence)*

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God, we pray for medics and chaplains, and all who support the suffering: give them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience to minister to the sick and wounded and to all prisoners and captives. We especially pray for all who returned from the field of combat with injuries both physical and mental which have ruined their young lives and for the charities and organisations which support them in their convalescence.

*(Short Silence)*

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, we pray for those fallen in battle who gave their lives in the cause of freedom and in defence of peace and justice. We remember too all civilians and non-combatants who died in the fighting: surround all who are bereaved with compassion, and give them a patient faith in their suffering.

*(Short Silence)*

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Everlasting God, wash away the wounds of war, violence, and hatred, help us to recognise how blessed Jesus named the peacemakers and to know that if we really wish for a peaceful world we should honestly pray – “Let it begin with me.”

Merciful father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name;  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. **Amen**

**Our final hymn is StF 503: Love divine**

*Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here:*

[https://youtu.be/SixAVrl\\_rBM?si=3LIYJwc2wpHm7rPp](https://youtu.be/SixAVrl_rBM?si=3LIYJwc2wpHm7rPp)

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heav'n to earth come down,  
fix in us Thy humble dwelling;  
all Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
visit us with Thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver;  
let us all Thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never,  
nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve Thee as Thy hosts above;  
pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then, Thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see Thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in Thee.  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,

till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

### **Blessing**

Go out into the world in the power of the Holy Spirit to live and to work for the kingdom of God. And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. **Amen**

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