Felixstowe Methodist Church at Seaton Road
10am 8th November 2026

Remembrance Sunday

Welcome and Notices, by The Steward

We gather today to remember.

We remember those who served and those who died in war.
We remember those who returned carrying wounds seen and unseen.
We remember those whose lives were changed for ever by conflict.
Silence

We remember civilians caught in war.
We remember families displaced from their homes.
We remember those imprisoned, persecuted and bereaved.
We remember the many who still live with the consequences of violence.
Silence

We do not gather to glorify war,
nor to pretend that history is simple.
We gather because human lives matter;
because memory matters;
and because, we pray, remembering the cost of violence
will strengthen our resolve to seek another way.
Silence

We come remembering the past.
May memory make us wise.

We come aware of the suffering of the present.
May compassion make us courageous.

We come hoping for a more peaceful future.
May hope lead us into action.

StF 706 Tune: Christ be our light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Bernadette Farrell

Prayer

God of every people and every nation,
source and sustainer of life,
many people around the world will gather today
carrying memories that are both precious and painful.

We give thanks for courage, for friendship and for self-giving;
for those who protected others at great cost to themselves;
for those who nursed the wounded, who sheltered the vulnerable
and who worked for reconciliation.

But we come also with questions.
Why do human beings continue to make enemies of one another?

We wonder:
Why do fear, pride and the hunger for power so easily overcome compassion?

We wonder:
After so much suffering, why do we still find peace so difficult?

Meet us in our remembering today.
May the past not imprison us but teach us.

Amidst all the sadness
May grief not harden us but deepen our compassion.

And may our remembering become a commitment
to build a world in which fewer names need ever be added
to the lists of the dead.
And so say all of us!

The set psalm for today is Psalm 46

Leader: God is our refuge and our strength,
Left side: a presence beside us when the world is troubled.
Right side: Therefore, we will not surrender to fear,
Left side: though all that seemed secure is shaken,
Right: though nations rage and certainties crumble,
All: though the earth itself seems wounded beneath us.

Leader: There is another way,
Left: a deeper current running through our world:
Right: the quiet persistence of love,
Left: the courage of compassion,
Right: the stubborn hope of those who work for peace.

Leader: God is in the midst of life;
All: hope shall not be overcome.
Leader: When darkness comes,
All: a new morning is still possible.

Leader: Nations threaten one another;
Left: peoples are divided;
Right: voices of anger grow loud.

Leader: Yet beyond the clamour
All: comes the ancient summons to peace.

Leader: Come and see what violence has done:
Left: the cities reduced to rubble,
Right: the homes left empty,
Left: the names carved into stone,
Right: the generations carrying wounds they did not choose.

Leader: God brings war to an end
not by making one people triumphant over another,
Left: but by breaking the weapons of hatred,
Right: by silencing the machinery of destruction,
All: and by calling humanity away from violence.

Leader: Be still.
Be still long enough to remember
... long enough to grieve.
...long enough to hear the humanity of those we have called our enemies.

All: For in the silence, we know
that no nation possesses God,
no flag can contain God,
no cause makes suffering holy.

Leader: God is found wherever mercy overcomes hatred,
Left: where justice makes reconciliation possible,
Right: where enemies learn one another's names,
All: and where people have the courage to make peace.

Leader: God is our refuge and our strength,
All: our companion in the struggle for a better world.

First Reading: Micah 4.1–4
Gospel Reading: Matthew 5.1–12

StF 411 Tune: Argentina

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Help us hold in memory those who went before,
those whose lives were broken by the wounds of war.
May their loss remind us what our world can be,
when we choose compassion, peace and dignity.

Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Help us build the future free from fear and hate,
learning how to listen ere it is too late.
May we cross the borders prejudice has drawn,
working for the peace of every coming dawn.

Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

God will be our Shepherd as we go our way
and will not forsake us when we go astray.
Even though the load of life is hard to bear,
we must not forget that God is always there.

Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

verse 1 Spanish traditional
translated by Alvin Schutmaat
v. 2&3 mgc
v. 4 Ann Mitchell

Sermon

The music group sing ‘A Song For Remembrance Day’. Tune: ‘Ashokan Farewell’

StF 717 Tune: Before The Throne Of God Above

We do not hope to ease our minds
by simple answers, shifted blame,
while Christ is homeless, hungry, poor,
and we are rich who bear his name.
As long as justice is a dream
and human dignity denied,
we stand with Christ; disturb us still
till every need is satisfied.
[till every need is satisfied.]

We cannot ask to live at peace
in comfort and security
while Christ is tried in Pilate’s hall
and drags his cross to Calvary.
As long as hatred stifles truth
and freedom is betrayed by fear,
we stand with Christ; give us no peace
till his peace reigns in triumph here.
[till his peace reigns in triumph here.]

We will not pray to be preserved
from any depth of agony
while Christ’s despairing cry rings out:
God, why have you abandoned me?
As long as we have hope to share
of life renewed beyond the pain,
we stand with Christ all through the night
till Easter morning dawns again.
[till Easter morning dawns again.]

Marnie Barrell

PAUL: Prayers for the World

PAUL: The Lord's Prayer

PAUL: Offering and Dedication

StF 681 Tune: Leoni

Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,

to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.

Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.

Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound —
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish
into joy.

When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love
and kindliness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.

Shirley Erena Murray

At 10.52am (approx.)

PAUL:
We remember the dead of two world wars, but also those killed in conflicts since 1945.
We remember British and Commonwealth forces, including people who came from across
Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and elsewhere.

And our remembering will never stop at uniforms.

We remember the millions of civilians killed in war; victims of the Holocaust and other genocides;
refugees driven from their homes; conscientious objectors who acted from deeply held conviction;
and people on every side whose ordinary lives were overwhelmed by decisions made far away from them.

Remembrance asks more of us than looking backwards.
It asks: What have we learned?

Please stand.

The Act of Remembrance

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.

The Last Post

Two minutes' silence

Reveille

In the silence we have remembered.

Now, in the noise and complexity of life,
help us to remember still.

MIKE:
Remembering those who died,
may we value life.

Remembering those who suffered,
help us to resist cruelty.

Remembering those who showed courage,
help us find courage of our own.

Remembering the failures of the past,
may we refuse the easy language of hatred and enemy.

And remembering the longing for peace
which crosses every border and belongs to every people,
help us become effective peace-makers. Amen.

Benediction:

May the love we name as God,
the peace we see in Jesus of Nazareth,
and the Spirit that moves within and among us
strengthen us for the work of reconciliation,
today and always.

Amen.