A Song For Remembrance Sunday (2026)

Tune: ASHOKAN FAREWELL — Jay Ungar

1
The years may pass away, and yet the names are still remembered,
the young and the hopeful, whose futures were torn.
Well we honour them best, not by battles proudly numbered,
but by building the peace for which everyone yearns.
As we think of the tears and all the sad partings,
of the lives that were changed evermore;
may remembering lead us from all the hatred,
till the ways of our warring are gone from our core.

2
We remember not only the friends who fell around us,
but strangers and enemies, children and wives;
for no border or a flag can divide the truth that binds us:
each casualty counted was some person's life.
So we pray for a world grown mindfully gentle,
where forgiveness is stronger than fear;
where the stranger is warmly welcomed as neighbour,
and the voice of compassion is clarion clear.

3
So, when silence descends and the names are read before us,
we honour the fallen by how we now live:
by resisting all the hatred which gathers and divides us,
by learning to listen, to welcome, forgive.
And when memory calls us together in sorrow,
may it also awaken our will:
to be makers of peace for all our tomorrows,
to pray and to labour for justice until.

4
For the Christ whom we follow chose love and not the sword blade,
he walked among people whom others despised;
and he called us all to peace when our instinct was to hatred,
and showed us the strength of a love crucified.
May that courage be ours when cometh the darkness,
when the drums of division are heard;
may we answer the snarling and shouting with kindness,
bring peace to those moments in deeds and our words.

MGC 16/10/26