

Church at home

East Leake Methodist Church 2020

Sit comfortably in a quiet place and prepare, start with a brief period of silence, turning your mind and spirit towards God. You may want to have a cross or candle in view as a focus.

StF 132: O God our help verses 1-4,6,7

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssr-Ga3Mz6Q>

Holy God, the protector of all who trust in you
Grant to the Armed Forces of the Crown,
and all who seek you,
the assurance of your presence
the knowledge of your love,
and the guidance of your spirit.
Lord, graciously hear us

Bring healing and wholeness to peoples and nations:
Let your mercy rule all that we do
Lord, graciously hear us.

Be with all who defend your truth and your peace;
that we may vanquish injustice and wrong-
Lord, graciously hear us.

Give wisdom to leaders and commanders,
that they may be a force for good on the Earth.
Lord, graciously hear us

In your wisdom embrace our enemies,
those who wish us harm:
turn the hearts of all to kindness and friendship.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Be with all medics and chaplains, and all who support the suffering:
Give them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience
Lord, graciously hear us.

Sustain the anxious and fearful
and renew them with courage from on high Lord, graciously hear us.

Comfort all worried families, whose loved ones are in danger:
surround them with your love, protect them from all harm.
Lord, graciously hear us

Be with the sick and wounded, stand by all prisoners and captives:
let your mercy be shown to all, and your power to heal and save
Lord, graciously hear us.

Receive those fallen in battle, and all innocents who have died:
surround their loved ones with compassion, and give them a patient faith.
Lord graciously hear us

Confirm what is founded on truth, and establish your love in our hearts;
that justice may abound on the Earth, and all peoples rejoice in your peace.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord our God our sure stronghold, hear the voice of our pleading
and deliver us from every evil Strengthen us as we strive for the poor and oppressed
and establish your justice in all the earth
Amen.

Ephesians 6:10-17

StF 131: By a monument of marble
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Swzc4ZCQ48>

John 15:9-17

Commitment

Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves
to serve you and all your peoples,
in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom,
give us courage,
give us hope:
and keep us faithful
now and always
Amen

Remembrance

We remember before you Lord and commend to your sure keeping
those who have died for their country in conflict,
those who we have known and whose memories we treasure
and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity

They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old,
age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun we will remember them

When you go home tell them of us and say:
"For your tomorrow, we gave our today"
(Kohima Epitaph)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEXjeTydLoI>
Last Post, 2 minutes silence, Rouse

ETERNAL FATHER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iu1v-i9XaC>

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bid'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to thee,
for those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, the Universal Lord,
who suffered death by nails and sword,
from all assault of deadly foe
sustain thy soldiers where they go;
and evermore hold in thy hand
all those in peril on the land.

O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace
Who fills with strength the human race;
Inspire mankind to know the right,
Guide all who dare the eagle's flight;
And underneath thy wings of care
Guard all from peril in the air.

O Trinity of love and power!
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee,
Praise from the air, the land and sea.

Address:

During the First World War, after an attack on the German position, a soldier returned to his own lines. He discovered there that his best mate who'd gone over the top with him and the others had not returned. The soldier went straight to his Company Commander and asked permission to re-enter No-Man's-Land to find his friend, if that was at least possible. His Commanding Officer counselled against it saying "Even if you find him it will not be worth it; and you risk your own life in trying. However if you are determined you may go". The young man went off, eventually found his friend badly wounded and began to carry him back to the British Lines. Before they reached the trench, the wounded friend died and the young soldier just managed to get back whilst being badly wounded himself. His Captain made his way to the soldier's side when he could see the youngster was close to death. "I told you; you shouldn't go after your friend. I warned you it might cost your own life. Was it really worth while going?" "O yes sir" the dying soldier replied, "it was worthwhile, for when I reached him, he said "I knew you'd come" and to hear him say that was worthwhile"

Stories of heroism and self-sacrifice abound from the First and Second World Wars, men threw themselves onto large coils of barbed wire that others could use them as bridges and advance further. It is with those sort of actions that I am reminded of Simon and Garfunkel's song "Bridge over troubled water".

When you're weary, feeling small
When tears are in your eyes, I will dry them all, all
I'm on your side, oh, when times get rough
And friends just can't be found
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down

When you're down and out
When you're on the street
When evening falls so hard
I will comfort you
I'll take your part, oh, when darkness comes
And pain is all around
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down etc

The ultimate sacrifice is that offered by Jesus when he gave of himself upon the cross for each of us, paying the price for our sins. He states in John 15:13 "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends". People have taken those words to heart over many a war and conflict, also in Peacetime to show how powerful sacrificial love can be. During the German occupation of a particular European country Partisans fought back. The German Army officer in charge of the region decided that for each German soldier who died a villager would be shot. As 10 soldiers had died 10 village men were chosen to be executed, one man pleaded for his life. The commander said if someone offered to take his place then he could live. The obvious answer was that no-one was willing until the village priest offered himself. The story of Father Wilhelm Kolbe has been told time and time again, he has not been forgotten. I wonder how many of us would make that sacrifice? How often though are we called upon to make a sacrifice in some way especially when God calls us to His service?

I would like to leave you with an old Persian story about one of their fabled leaders, Shah Abbas. Like many a character of history he loved to wander amongst his people in disguise. Once, dressed as a poor man, he descended a long flight of stairs, dark and damp, to a tiny cellar where he found a man sat on ashes, tending the furnace. The Shah sat down beside the man and began to talk. At mealtime the furnaceman produced some coarse, black bread and a jug of water and shared it with his guest. Afterwards the Shah left but returned on several occasions, he sympathised in his own mind for the furnaceman who appeared to be a very lonely man. The Shah

received some sage advice and counsel, here was such a kind man, wise indeed and yet also poor.

Finally the Shah thought to himself "I will tell him who I am and see what gift he asks for" So he turned to the furnaceman and said "You think me poor, but I am Shah Abbas your emperor". He expected the furnaceman to ask for some great gift but he remained silent, gazing at the Shah with love and wonder. The Shah could only say "Haven't you understood? I can make you rich and noble, can give you a city, can appoint you as a great ruler. Have you nothing to ask?"

The furnaceman gently replied "Yes, my lord, I understand. But what is this you have done, to leave your palace and glory, to sit with me in this dark place, to share in my meagre food, to care whether my heart is glad or sorry? Even you cannot give anything more precious. On others you may bestow great riches, but to me you have given yourself. It only remains to ask that you never withdraw this gift of your friendship"

The gift of love Jesus gives to all, His life was laid down for the sins of the world. What can we give in response?, our love to all regardless of who or what people are? Or at the very least to lay down our life in service that others may live?

Intercession

Let us pray for the peace of the world: for statesmen and rulers,
that they may have wisdom to know and courage to do what is right..

for all who work to improve international relationships
that they may find the true way
to reconcile people of different race, colour, and creed...

and for men and women the world over, that they may have justice and freedom
and live in security and peace...
Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Most gracious God and Father,
in whose will is our peace:
turn our hearts and the hearts of all to yourself, that by the power of your Spirit
the peace which is founded on righteousness
be established throughout the whole world

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of war: for the injured and the disabled,
for the mentally distressed, for those whose faith in God and man has been
weakened or destroyed.

for the homeless and refugees, those who are hungry,
for all who have lost their livelihood and security •
for those who mourn their dead, those who have lost husband or wife,
children or parents, and especially for those who have no hope in Christ
to sustain them in their grief ...
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, infinite in wisdom, love, and power:
have compassion on those for whom we pray;
help us to use all suffering in the cause of your kingdom;
through him who gave himself for us on the cross,
Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord
Amen

StF 698:God, As with silent hearts
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUrqx2Zl35g>

If you're feeling very patriotic try: (not compulsory)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xm7CZvvsC64>

God bless us and keep us in peace, today and always. Amen