

Reflections for 8th November 2020 – Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance and Hope

At this time of Remembrance each year, we have an opportunity to pause and reflect, in the light of the word of God, as we:

- look back and remember the past
- look around and seek to understand the present
- and look forward with hope for the future

As we look back, some of us have particular memories of people, places, and times – memories of significant events, some happy memories, but also many that touch on sadness and loss. Memories from many years ago, or from more recent times. Some of us won't have those strong personal memories, but this remembering is important for all of us. And if it stirs up any difficult memories and feelings – then we may seek and find God's presence, comfort and healing, in whatever way we may need it.

Then, we can look at our lives, and our world, in the present. We can give thanks to God for the measure of peace and security that we enjoy, compared to many generations before us. But as we look around the world, there are many signs of tension and division, conflict and violence. In prayer, we may bring all of these concerns to God, as we are called to see our world clearly, as it really is, so that we can then find a firm basis for hope.

And then we are called to look to the future with hope – a hope that is grounded in faith. God calls us to work for the good of the community and nation where we find our home, while remembering that our hope is not just for this life. Our hope lies in God and God's promises, that offer a broad and deep vision of true peace for all people and all of God's creation.

Revd John Waller

God of peace,
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom
and restored the broken to wholeness of life:
look with compassion on the anguish of the world
and by your healing power
make whole both people and nations;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Bible readings: Micah 4. 1-5; John 15. 9-17

Story: The Tree of Life (Micah 4. 3)