

# Hornsea URC

## Service of Remembrance 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020



**Welcome to our service.**

We gather to worship Jesus, who's death and resurrection we remember in our sharing of bread and wine together.

As we gather together today especially, we remember and honour those who fought and died for our freedom. We will join the rest of the nation in observing silence at 11 a.m.

Our first song is- **As we gather**

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN & WATCH](#)

Opening Prayer-

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your presence with us as we meet. We remember those unable to be with us today, and those who need our prayers.

(please say aloud the names of those you want to pray for)

We join together in the Lord's Prayer-

Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory  
For ever and ever.  
Amen

### **Psalm 137**

By the rivers of Babylon, we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.

There on the poplars we hung our harps, for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill. May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy.

Remember O LORD, what the Edomites did on the day Jerusalem fell. “Tear it down,” they cried, “tear it down to its foundations!”

O Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction, happy is he who repays you for what you have done to us—he who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks.



## **Reflection**

This Psalm is a lament, full of raw emotion. God's own people once rescued by the Exodus, have been taken captive by the Babylonians and are now in a foreign land - prisoners of war, if you like. They are meeting next to the river to praise God. They had harps which were instruments used in joyful celebration- but they didn't use them, instead hanging them in the trees.

It had all gone wrong! They remembered Jerusalem and how things had been, and sat down and wept. When their cruel captors asked them to sing, they said no - in a 'Not here, not now' way- "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" they cried.

Today we remember past wars, dark times when people found themselves in strange lands and much was lost. We reflect too on the strange times we are in now when people have lost loved ones, jobs, security. These are dark times for many and there is much fear.

Verse one in the Message translation says;" we sat on the banks, we cried and cried, remembering the good old days in Zion".

There will be times of grief, indeed we are encouraged to 'weep with those who weep'. Yet as God's people, we are a people of hope, because we follow a crucified and risen Saviour. We know that even in the worst of situations, when life makes no sense, we are not abandoned.

Yes, there is a lot of bad news, but we know the Good News of Jesus. We read in Isaiah chapter 52 - 'How lovely on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, proclaim peace'. We sang in our opening song 'Father seal us in the love that knows no fear...that the World may know our God is near'.

What has the Church - God's people - us- What do we have to offer for such a time as this?

Can I suggest that we look at the question 'How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?' it is written in the Psalm in a very despairing way. Perhaps we could ask it in a questioning way- in a really loving and humble way- "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?"

## Romans 8 verses 35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



## 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.

Last post [CLICK HERE](#)

followed by 2 minutes silence



## **Remembrance prayers**

Merciful God, your love embraces all of creation.

Your realm knows nothing of the borders we draw between nations.

You have taught us that every woman, man and child is our neighbour.

You have commanded us to love, love, love,

without thought of our own security, or glory, or gain.

Remind us that you have pronounced your blessing,

not upon nations and armies,

but upon the poor, and the meek, and the peacemakers.

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We remember those who have lost their lives as a result of war;

Young soldiers, dispatched to far-away places, never to return

And civilians, young and old, caught in the crossfire of conflict.

Loving God, bring healing to families torn apart by war.

Comfort those who mourn for their loved ones.

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We remember those who have been psychologically wounded by the horrors of war

Who find themselves unable to live with the burden of having taken away human life

Those who dehumanise 'the enemy' in order to carry out acts of violence

And find their own humanity diminished as a result.

Loving God, bring healing to hearts and minds that are broken

Reveal to us your image deep within us and within every other human life

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We remember the ecological cost of war; the landscapes that bear the scars of bombing,

The soil and water poisoned by the chemical residue of weapons,

The scorched earth churned to dust by heavy vehicles,

The destroyed forest-habitats of birds and creatures

And the innocent animal lives lost amongst the 'collateral damage'.

Loving God, bring healing to the earth

Make a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We remember those who campaign for peace,

Who seek and encourage reconciliation, and non-violent resolutions to conflict,

Those bold prophets who raise their voices to declare that there can be another way

And those who, in their lives, model the radical forgiveness that Christ himself taught and demonstrated

Loving God, bring healing to communities;

Forgiveness where there is hurt, compassion where there is hatred, love where there is fear

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Amen.**

**[Song- weapon of prayer](#)**

## COMMUNION



### Invitation-

Today we are the guests of Jesus  
Old or young, rich or poor, joyful or in sorrow  
Jesus invites us- to share bread and wine with him,  
To remember the story of his life and death  
And to celebrate his presence with us today.

On the night before he died Jesus shared a meal with 12 of his disciples  
in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

The Gospel writer tells us what happened that night-  
Mark 14 v 22-25

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying “Take it; this is my body”.

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it.

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many” he said to them. “I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.”

### Preparation prayer

We bring this bread and this wine to the table of Jesus  
With them we bring ourselves, all that we are and all that we own  
May the ordinary become holy and heaven be opened to the people of  
earth. Amen

### Breaking and sharing

We remember Jesus’ body broken to heal a broken world

We remember Jesus' blood shed to bring forgiveness.

Thanksgiving prayer

Loving God

You have fed us generously at this table as we have remembered Jesus

And rejoiced that he is with us today

We are ready now to follow him and to be your people in the world

May your Holy Spirit show us the way, make us holy and fill us with love. Amen

[Song- crown him with many crowns](#)

**Blessing**

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

**Amen.**