

8th November 2020

Hearsall at Home

Hello, and welcome to Hearsall at Home for Remembrance Sunday. If you are able to start at 10:30am, you should find that the two minutes' silence occurs at 11am.

Our time of fellowship this Sunday is on Zoom from 11:30am.

Please go to:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85454368639>

Meeting ID: 851 6681 8535

No password is required for this session.

And now let us begin the process of remembering all those who have died in war.

Let us remember God, who calls us to live our lives courageously.

Order of Service 8th November 2020

Remembrance Sunday

Call to Worship

Faced with a daring mission into a promised new land, Joshua heard these words of encouragement from God:

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

We may be facing an uncertain future. We may feel fear for what the coming weeks, months may hold. Today we remember men and women of courage who gave their all for freedom. We seek to be inspired by their example, and to be brave in our search for a better world.

And so we sing, *Father, hear the prayer we offer*, a prayer not for ease, but for courage and for strength.

Hymn (BPW 523) **Father, Hear the Prayer we Offer**

Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength, that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but by steep and rugged pathways
Would we seek you fearlessly.

Not forever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

Prayers

Lord since before time began; God of history; God who endures beyond time itself;
we enter your presence with reverence and with awe.

You have courage greater than that of the bravest warrior.

You have mercy gentler than that of the most tender parent.

You speak truth to those who abuse power in the human world.

You make peace though you suffer long and hard to do so.

We adore you and praise your holy name.

This day we thank you for all who have followed the paths of courage, truth, justice
and mercy. We honour all who have sacrificed their lives in world wars and other
wars, to bring life to others. We praise you for everything they did to bring us the
freedom we enjoy today.

And now, O Lord, we confess that we are sinners and that we have sinned.

We are prone to both fear and courage; to both vengeance and mercy; to both
selfishness and peace. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who died to forgive
us for all our sins and who rose again on the third day to bring us all to life. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Offering

The gift of life is precious beyond measure, yet some gave their lives to bring life to us all. Take these humble gifts and use them to further your kingdom of justice and mercy, courage and truth. Amen.

Well, we are now going to hear from one of our very special friends, Joyce Hancock, in an extended edition of Doors Ajar...

Well, I'm here in a park near the home of Joyce Hancock. Joyce, what is this park called?

Broomfield, I think.

Oh, and that's the Rugby ground there, isn't it?

Oh, yes, we've come through the hallowed ground – actually we're looking at the stand and then we can see Earlsdon Park Village which looks from here like a prison. I can't believe that I live there and it's so gorgeous but from afar it looks dreadful! (a lot of laughter).

I know that you're very pleased to be living there, aren't you?

Oh, I jolly well am.

How long have you been there now?

Two and a half years – I can't believe it myself.

And you've given a tour to a few of us over those two and a half years, haven't you?

Oh yes, they ought to pay me as a guide, I've taken so many people round.

A sales woman; if you we're on commission, you'd be doing alright!

Yes, another job, on commission! Yes, it's great.

Tell me a few things you like about where you live.

Oh gosh, the fun! I've said once or twice to people, it's a bit like being at college but no worry about handing in essays at the end of the week, you know. It's really lovely. There are so many people, we just have chats or gossips all the while. It's not quite the same now, unfortunately, since the lockdown. We're not allowed to have people in our flats at all; have to do all our gossiping outside but we manage.

So what sort of communal spaces do you have outside your flats then; where might you go?

Very, very little, I'll tell you. I mean it's a building site. That's why we come to the park such a lot and go round all the streets and Spon End – there's lots of places over on the old Spon End.

I know that inside you've got a restaurant or café?

Well not now, well, yes I suppose it is really. It's still there but no, everything is so different at the moment; very few activities at all but we manage. 'Cos the corridors are wide and we can chat to each other a lot. There are places to sit outside but it's a bit cold at times, isn't it? And we've all got our balconies but you can't have anybody else on your balcony.

That's a rule, is it?

Well, you've got to come through your flat, yes, I mean you could have people on your balconies when we didn't have this rule about anybody in your flat, but at the moment households cannot meet and we're all considered to be one household each, unless you are lucky enough to have a husband or wife but there aren't all that many of them with husbands and wives; we're mainly singles.

So how are you feeling about the new lockdown; will that change things for you at all?

I don't think it will make much difference to us really. We're already locked down. We can go out; actually it's nice really because at least we can go out with another person and sit, as David and I are sitting at the moment, one each end of a bench in the park, which you can't do in your own home.

Four more weeks of lockdown; of more restrictions. Do you have any tips? How do we keep going when times are hard?

Well, I'm very sorry for people with businesses and shops and that sort of thing, I'm very sorry, but for ordinary people - we're not in any danger or anything. I mean, every night you go to bed and you don't have to think, we might get bombed tonight or something like that. I'm sorry for people who are really on their own, as I would have been at Broad Lane, with very little contact with anything, other than my own

family. You can't expect them to come backwards and forwards to see you. No, and it's only four weeks and we haven't got any worries about food or so on. We're jolly lucky really. I am very sorry for people who have just got back to starting businesses and getting back into business and the poor hairdressers – look how they've got everything organised and what they've had to do. It's a shame and I hope it proves to have been necessary.

I know one of the things you take an interest in at Earlsdon Park Village are the gardens and plants. Do you have a little section of garden you look after still?

Yes, and a couple of days ago I had a terrible shock. I got back with some compost that someone had given to me; it was beautiful compost and I was going to put it on. As you know, it was a carpark, this place and so, I mean, there isn't much soil anywhere and so every bit is marvellous, and I found a man, a workman digging my patch up! I'm afraid I shouted at him rather fiercely (laughter) and I said, "What are you doing? What do you think you're doing?" Oh dear, and I got really angry. He thought..... He'd come with another man with a tractor... A few minutes later and the whole thing would have been in a tractor and carried away.

I said, "Don't do another thing! Stay where you are! Wait, I'll go and find out what's happened. You're in the wrong place; you must be in the wrong place!" We found one or two people, you know, officials, sort of, and anyway we got it sorted and lines had got crossed and somebody helped me put back what they'd done and so on and it's all put right now. And what is going to happen now is that, that patch is going to be left as it is but the rest of that part is going to be enlarged for seating outside – which is good. What's going to happen will be fine but, you know - communication failure and I did apologise to the gentleman the next day and we are now very good friends. (laughter) *As your minister, I'm glad to hear that!* (more laughter)

I said I had never been as angry as that since once when there was a riot in the playground and I quelled it at a shout, I was so angry, and that was 40 years ago!

Tell me some of the things you've grown over the last couple of years here. What sort of plants are you growing?

Well, it isn't so much growing, it's the fact that we are trying to just beautify it from what it was before, which was just horrible things. It's just perennial, herbaceous stuff; all sorts of things. Oh yes, of course, there are the famous aquilgias that you

may have heard about, that we nicked from the weeds and stinging nettles growing on the Butts carpark; the Rugby club carpark. We stealthily took these aquilgias, which were growing amongst the nettles, and there are two places where we've got these aquilgias, and just to think of it, this man might have even got rid of those as well!

So, as you know, it's Remembrance Sunday today. I'm just wondering, what are your memories of wartime years; where were you during the war?

Well, I was 13 when war broke out, that was in 1939, so by 1940 I'd already had all the bombs and things in Coventry but by the 14th I was away with relatives in the country in Derbyshire. We were evacuated so I missed the actual November Blitz. I was back for the April one. We didn't actually get bombed ourselves but lots of my friends did and, of course, the school, Barrs Hill, was flattened and so on and everything was very sketchy but I didn't have much to do with town at all. Joan Cobb's the one that gives a very good picture of the Blitz because she was actually working at Owens.

We actually heard about her last year.

Yes, and that really sums up what it was like, but when you are talking about Remembrance Day, David, I obviously think about World War 1 and World War 2; World War 2 for my husband, Harry, and lots of friends at Hearsall and World War 1, my own father who was in Italy and, you see, it's that I remember, and next door to me here is Ken, who was a Battle of Britain pilot, and he'll be 99 next month. He'll be very sad this year because, of course, we shan't be having our service. He very proudly managed last year to put a wreath on the table that we had. We had a lovely service, didn't we?

Tell me, whereabouts did your husband, Harry, serve then?

Mostly with 8th Army; he came up from Tunisia and then up through Italy. He was at Monte Casino – a bit of a wound there as well. He said it was enough to keep him for a couple days out of the main fighting. I've been back to Monte Casino with him twice. I went there for the 40th anniversary, I think, and we had a service there and we read the Service of Reconciliation from Coventry cathedral. We had a big service with the Polish people because, of course, finally they were the last ones to actually take the top of the mount. I think the Duke of Kent came and I was standing there

and I was so close to the Duke of Kent, if I had wanted to, I could have stabbed him in the back. I didn't feel as though I ought to (*A good job it was you!*) but do you know what I mean? (laughter) I thought how exposed he was. But the Polish people that we met at Casina for a day or two before, because we actually stayed there for a few days....we were there with a group of men, oh, what do you call them? I can't remember.... Harry's pals from the 8th Army, a group of veterans, and we were wandering about and we used to meet the Poles and it was lovely to chat – special times.

So when did you and Harry get married?

1949, at Hearsall, of course, and we just lived at Sussex Road and then moved up to Broad Lane later.

Well Joyce, it's so nice to chat with you this afternoon. Would you like to give a greeting to your friends at Hearsall?

Well, Hello everybody! I'm afraid that in the end I have been to St Barbara's church with a friend on Sunday and it was so lovely to be inside a church again and have a service properly. I know we didn't sing but somebody did and we just followed the words and we joined in with everything else. It was the old fashioned prayer; the old fashioned Lord's Prayer as well, David. (laughter). It was lovely – no fuss and palaver at all....

So you'd like to see us back at Hearsall?

Oh, Good Lord, yes, but I do understand that it's a worry for a lot of people. I wore a visor so you don't feel quite so alien.

Yes, well, thank you for all your lovely thoughts, Joyce, and bless you as you carry on your life at Earlsdon Park Village.

We are remembering the 80th anniversary of the Coventry Blitz. Some listening to this will remember that time. Some will remember meeting in the old schoolrooms and singing, in defiance of violent attack, *In heavenly love abiding... The storm may roar about me, my heart may low be laid, but God is round about me, and can I be dismayed?*

Hymn (BPW 55) **In Heavenly Love Abiding**

1. In heavenly love abiding,
no change my heart shall fear;
and safe is such confiding,
for nothing changes here.
The storm may roar without me,
my heart may low be laid,
but God is round about me,
and can I be dismayed?
2. Wherever he may guide me,
no want may turn me back;
my shepherd is beside me,
and nothing can I lack.
His wisdom ever waketh,
his sight is never dim,
he knows the way he taketh,
and I will walk with him.
3. Green pastures are before me,
which yet I have not seen;
bright skies will soon be o'er me,
where dark the clouds have been.
My hope I cannot measure,
my path to life is free;
my Saviour has my treasure
and he will walk with me.

As 11am approaches, we listen to some music. At 11, you will hear the Last Post being played and we will then keep silence for two minutes, remembering all who have died in war.

Act of Remembrance

The Last Post

Two minutes' silence

The Reveille

For the Fallen (by Laurence Binyon)

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

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.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,

Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

And now our church secretary, Anne, leads our Prayers of Intercession.

Dear Father God, we come to you in prayer in this service of remembrance to ask for peace for our world, and to remember all those who have given their lives in past and ongoing conflicts. There is still war and unrest going on in many parts of our world and sadly even within countries, as the people rise up against unjust rulers or there is oppression of various groups of people living within one nation. Also sadly because of religious divides.

The fact that there is a worldwide pandemic seems to make no difference to the conflicts, it just makes life even harder for all those who have to bear both situations. We ask you, Lord, to be with the members of the forces who are sent to try and keep the peace in these areas. We thank you that there are people who are willing to put themselves in this situation to serve their country and to protect the freedom of other people. We pray for the families of those who are left at home trying to cope with looking after their families and worrying about the safety of their loved ones. We pray for the refugees and asylum seekers who are displaced by these conflicts and have to flee for their lives. May the countries that receive them be welcoming and supportive.

We pray for the situation in Nigeria as young people take to the streets to protest about the harsh oppression of their leaders. We also pray for the people of Turkey and Greece after the earthquake last week. Be with them at this terrible time and comfort the families of those who have lost loved ones.

Grant us courage, Lord, and sustain us through another lockdown to try and stem the spread of the Covid 19 pandemic and protect our health service. We thank you for all the scientists, health workers, key workers and volunteers. Keep them safe as they strive to achieve their aims. Be with our leaders as they make important decisions about the way forward and about how to pay for all the demands to protect people's health and their livelihoods and also their wellbeing.

Help us to stay positive and to keep in touch with those who live alone or may need our help. Help us to keep that communal spirit that will empower us to feel that we are all in this together and to keep to the rules set by the Government.

May our church be an important part of the community and show us ways we can help with the things that are needed, such as food for the foodbank and Christmas gifts to the children who need them.

As always Lord, we ask you to be with those who have been bereaved, or who are ill or lonely or suffering from mental health issues or abuse. We lift up to you the people who have been mentioned on the prayer chain over the last few weeks and now we will have a few moments silence for you to think of any others known to you.

We ask all these things in the name of your dear son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Thanks so much Anne for leading those prayers. And now, let's sing, remembering that our strength comes from God, *God is our strength and refuge*.

Hymn (BPW 308) **God is our Strength and Refuge**

1 God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble;
and we therefore will not fear,
though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble,
though swirling floods are raging,
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

2 There is a flowing river,
within God's holy city;
God is in the midst of her-
she shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at his presence-
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

3 Come, see the works of our maker,

learn of his deeds all-powerful;
wars will cease across the world
when he shatters the spear!
Be still and know your creator,
uplift him in the nations-
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

Doors Ajar Interview

We're going to hear some wartime memories now from Joan Kelly, who is a regular member of our luncheon club.

Hello Joan. Please can you tell us about when you went raspberry picking in Scotland during the war.

My mother took us to Sheffield, and we caught the train and we were shunted into a siding overnight, and then we travelled next morning up to Blair Gowrie which was, and still is the centre of the raspberry picking area of Perthshire. And so then, at 13, I went raspberry picking, and I set off as a skinny looking kid. I used to come home and cry because the kids at school called me "sparrow legs".

And then we were out picking raspberries for Mr. McIntyre, was the farmer's name, and I remember all these so, so clearly. The first couple of days nobody liked porridge, so we were out picking in the fields hungry but we were always brought back home. We had a big flat top wagon and we used to sit in our buckets because we had a little bucket that were attached to us waist and then a big bucket that we put the raspberries in. You know the raspberry lanes, where the raspberries were, were stoops every so far and we took the big bucket down to the first stoop and picked into the little bucket and then, as we got there, we'd pour it in to the big bucket and move the big bucket further on, so we weren't heaving a heavy bucket. And then the farm hands came and collected the buckets, and we had them all weighed. And we were paid tuppence for every pound of raspberries that we picked and that went towards our board for the week which we had to make over three pounds because we'd got to pay £3.00 for our board. That was for all our meals. We were taken home every lunchtime for a good dinner and then came back into the

fields then for the afternoon and picked them till about 5 o' clock at night. We came home then to the dormitory and had a good meal then in the dormitory.

As I said, whilst were there VJ Day was declared which is the 24th of August. VE day is the 8th of May but VJ day was when the war in Japan ended, and the war was fully over is the 24th of August. And because the raspberries were at their fullest, Mr. McIntyre asked us if we'd carry on picking that day and then he gave a party for us at night in the dormitory. And we had a fancy dress party a we came up with, we will pirates and goodness knows what and we had this lovely nd you know we just borrowed clothes from each another. But the things that party. And that is just about it you know, it's just memories. When I came back home nobody recognized me because I had gone away to Scotland as they bit of a stripling, and I had put two stones on in Scotland! Nobody recognized me!

So, Joan, before you went there did you have a shelter at home?

Yes, we had an Anderson shelter at the bottom of the garden. I lived in Barnsley, yes we had and Anderson shelter and the first night when the sirens went, we went into the shelter and I remember my dad talking to the next door neighbour and there was this red glow, and I remember them saying, "Oh see that Sheffield is getting it tonight" and that must have been when Sheffield had their really bad blitz.

But with regards to Coventry, the first thing I ever heard of Coventry, was when the Queen opened the New Coventry Cathedral and she was dressed in a beautiful yellow coat and hat that was on telly, and I thought then "Ooh, that looks like a lovely place, what a beautiful place." The opening ceremony when Coventry Cathedral opened was on telly. My husband, Jeff, my first husband, he was in engineering. South Yorkshire, Barnsley, was the centre of the coal mining industry and he worked in a small engineering company and he said "You know, Joan, they're making £20.00 a week in Coventry" (his stopped rate was 11 Pound 7/6 a week). He said, "Would you mind if I went down and saw what the job prospects were?" And I just says, "Well , no, if that is where you would like to go, you know that where ever you go, I shall come with you," so he came down to Coventry and this was 1966. And I just said, "Oh, alright then, I'll go to Coventry."

How do you live your life now? What is a general week for you now?

My general week is idle-itus. I love my telly and I love reading. I have my grandson's partner comes in and gives a good clean and hoovers all over and mops the kitchen floor and everything.

What visitors do you get, now, during this lockdown?

Well, our Joanna comes every fortnight and does me shopping; and then my daughter Julia lives in Whoberley Avenue, so she calls quite regularly and then my grandson, Anthony, he lives in Spon End and his partner is the one who comes and goes some work for me, some cleaning, and they have their own children now. Shannon already had this little girl, and now they have their own, little Lucas, they called him, gorgeous! They are my great grandchildren.

I have got a very happy life; contented life; good friends and good family and, do you know, I couldn't be happier.

Well, thank you Joan for sharing your thoughts and memories with us.

Our Bible readings today are from Judges and from Matthew.

Judges 7: 1 – 21

Gideon defeats the Midianites

7 Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. ²The LORD said to Gideon, 'You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, "My own strength has saved me." ³Now announce to the army, "Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

⁴But the LORD said to Gideon, 'There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, "This one shall go with you," he shall go; but if I say, "This one shall not go with you," he shall not go.'

⁵ So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, 'Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.' ⁶ Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

⁷ The LORD said to Gideon, 'With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.' ⁸ So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley. ⁹ During that night the LORD said to Gideon, 'Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands. ¹⁰ If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah ¹¹ and listen to what they are saying. Afterwards, you will be encouraged to attack the camp.' So he and Purah his servant went down to the outposts of the camp. ¹² The Midianites, the Amalekites and all the other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore.

¹³ Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. 'I had a dream,' he was saying. 'A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.'

¹⁴ His friend responded, 'This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands.'

¹⁵ When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed down and worshipped. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, 'Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands.' ¹⁶ Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside.

¹⁷ 'Watch me,' he told them. 'Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. ¹⁸ When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all round the camp blow yours and shout, "For the LORD and for Gideon."'

¹⁹ Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. ²⁰ The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, 'A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!' ²¹ While each man held his position round the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.

Matthew 14: 22 - 27

Jesus walks on the water

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. 'It's a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'

Homily

Take Courage

Today we remember the bravery and sacrifice of so many in battle. Today, we salute their courage.

Sometimes we may feel as if we have our backs to the wall. Some of us remember the experiences of World War II. Some may have been involved in more recent wars. Some will have experienced peril in other situations.

Now we have heard some good sense in our service. Though we may be disappointed at the thought of a new lockdown, most of us have homes to live in, and these homes are safe places. Most of us have plenty of food to eat.

On the other hand, those in business face very great challenges. Some families are struggling to feed their children. Many young people have lost work. And our UK terrorist threat level has been raised to severe after recent attacks in France and Austria.

How can we find courage? Gideon sent home 22,000 men who trembled with fear. The remaining 10,000 were whittled down to a mere 300. Given the now impossibly bad odds of success, victory demanded a total dependence on God.

The disciples on the lake were terrified as their boat was tossed in a storm. Things got worse, and an apparition appeared, walking on the water. They were terrified by this ghost.

But the 'ghost' called out to them, *Take courage, it is I.*

For the Christian, in the secret recesses of the heart, in the very centre of our terror, in the heat of the battle, Christ comes. In the fiercest fight or wildest storm, we are invited to rely entirely on him. We face impossible odds, and sometimes, that's the point. The odds are so impossible that only Christ could bring us home.

Come wind, come weather, come pain, come failure, come abandonment, come disgrace, financial ruin, war, hunger, sickness or mortal danger, if we but open the eyes of our heart we see Christ, inviting us to take courage, for in the eye of the storm, he stands.

Courage can be a very small thing. A tiny switch turned on in the secret place of the soul. A whispered Yes to life when we have been besieged by loud temptations to despair.

Yet if that little soul-switch is thrown, then we find the energy we need to labour for a better world and help others who may be afraid. Taking courage, Gideon's men had to raise their torches, sound their trumpets and brandish their swords. Taking

courage, Jesus' disciples had to take control of their boat. Taking courage, Joshua had to walk into the promised land.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

O Lord, though we are afraid, meet us in the eye of the storm, in the secret place of our soul, and grant us courage. And so use us, not to spread despair, anxiety, or fear, but hope, peace and love; for our neighbours, our family, our church and our friends may need us. Amen.

Let's express our faith, and take courage, and sing, *Men of faith...*

Song (WT 292) **Men of Faith**

Verse 1

Men of faith rise up and sing
Of the great and glorious King.
You are strong when you feel weak,
In your brokenness complete.

Chorus

*Shout to the north and the south,
Sing to the east and the west,
Jesus is Saviour to all,
Lord of heaven and earth.*

Verse 2

Rise up women of the truth,
Stand and sing to broken hearts,
Who can know the healing pow'r
Of our awesome King of love.

Chorus

*Shout to the north and the south,
Sing to the east and the west,*

*Jesus is Saviour to all,
Lord of heaven and earth.*

We've been through fire,
We've been through rain,
We've been refined
By the pow'r of His name.
We've fallen deeper
In love with You,
You've burned
The truth on our lips.

Chorus

Verse 3

Rise up church with broken wings
Fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high;
By His grace again we'll fly.

Chorus x 2

Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth

Raising of the Wreath

David: Now we go over to Andy Thompson who is in the main hall in the Hearsall Community buildings.

Andy: Thank you for joining me in the hall at Hearsall for the conclusion of the Remembrance Day service. We are gathered here to remember two people who were part of the Hearsall Community during the second world war, Jim Perry and Ron Hyde.

As with so many other people in wartime, both men went off to war and did not return home.

So each year we raise the poppy wreath, the symbol of remembrance in the community hall to remind us not only of Jim and Ron, but all our relatives and friends who have died in war and I will do that now.

David: Thank you Andy. Let's pray together.

Heavenly Father, on this Day of Remembrance we especially think of Jim Perry and Ron Hyde, known to this church, who gave their lives in the Second World War. Thank you for their example, their sense of duty, their love for their country and for courage. We pray for comfort for those who yet remember them with sadness. We honour them once more and we pray that the sacrifice of their lives will continue to lead to a fairer and better world in ours. For Jesus' Sake Amen.

The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ;
The love of God;
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Be with us all
Now and always. Amen.

Sung 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.