

MULBARTON CHURCH

Sunday 8th November 2020

WAR & PEACE

WELCOME, INTRODUCTION & opening prayer

This year we mark 75 years since the end of World War 2 (VE Day & VJ Day), and 80 years since the Battle of Britain and the retreat from Dunkirk.



WAR

FIRST READING: the sources of war

James chapter 3 verse 16 to chapter 4 verse 3:

...Where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

REFLECTION

James is down-to-earth about war and its cause: 'You want something and you don't get it'. That causes everything from playground fights to world war.... Today is a day for remembering war – but does it register? The pain, the loss, the air raids, the agony of waiting for news.... On the back of this sheet are 2 images from WW2: the bell given by the local postmaster and keen bell-ringer in memory of his son killed at Dunkirk; and the record card for a local man, recently married and in lodgings in Bracon Ash, taken POW in Singapore; probably working on the Burma railway; died of malaria in Thailand.

Whilst James makes the diagnosis, he also says this is not what God intended. Heavenly wisdom – God's way of viewing life – is 'pure, peace-loving' etc. (verse 17). How different if policy makers, all people, practised this wisdom! But we have turned our backs on God and to receive that blessing we must turn round and face him. It's called repentance – and when we do turn we find God is a loving Father who wants us back.

CONFESSION: *(please join in words in bold)*

Gracious God, when we glory in power and not in humility:

forgive us and grant us your peace.

When we glory in satisfaction and not service:

forgive us and grant us your peace.

When our hearts are at war with your will for our lives:

forgive us and grant us your peace.

When we are reluctant to plant the seeds of our plenty in the soil of the needs of others:

forgive us and grant us your peace.

In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.

PROMISE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS



COLLECT for Remembrance Sunday

LORD'S PRAYER

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Let us remember with thanksgiving before God those who have died for their country in war; those whom we knew, or know of, and whose memory we treasure; those from this village commemorated here; and all who have lived and died in the service of mankind.



and FRANK BARRATT

(continued overleaf)



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

All: We will remember them.

*Last Post; **SILENCE;** Reveille*
The wreath is placed beneath the Roll of Honour



When you go home tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrow we gave our today. *(The Kohima Epitaph)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

As we remember those who have died in past wars,
so we pray too for those still dying today...
and for those who grieve..... We pray:
God of the past be our future peace.

We remember those living in countries
where civil war is destroying communities
and making enemies of neighbours,
where fear and violence dominate every
aspect of daily living... We pray:
God of today be our future peace.

We remember those who have been injured and traumatised
by the brutality of war,
especially those robbed of their childhood
by what they have seen or been forced to do ...
And we pray for refugees, especially for those who
have lost all hope of a better life.... We pray:
God of tomorrow be our future peace.

We remember those who are peacemakers,
those who negotiate,
those who speak out for truth and justice at great
cost to themselves and their families... We pray:
God of the future, be our eternal peace. AMEN

A prayer for our nation

PEACE

SECOND READING: A promise of peace
John's gospel, chapter 14, verses 23 to 27:

Jesus said, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

'All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.'

REFLECTION

This year we commemorate 75 years since the end of World War 2, and we celebrated VE Day in a low-key way and – as often happens – largely forgot VJ Day, the real end of that war....
PEACE - a mark of God's wisdom, James said. A blessing from Jesus, from this Gospel reading. Notice the contrast Jesus makes between the usual definition of 'peace' (lack of war) and his peace, which is to do with the heart. A peace that we might be 'at peace' in a time of stress, worry, fear, uncertainty – just like the present time. Peace between people and between people and God. Just after this reading, Jesus faced betrayal, a mock trial and death. He didn't deserve it – but he explained it: 'God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life....' (John 3 verse 16).

NATIONAL ANTHEM (to be SAID as a prayer, with additional verse from a modern version in *Hymns for Today's Church*):

God save our gracious Queen,
long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save the Queen!

Lord be our nation's light.
guide us in truth and right:
in you we stand;
give us your faithfulness,
keep us from selfishness,
raise us in godliness;
God save our land!

CONCLUDING PRAYER:

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love:
May we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people,
and live lives of justice, courage and mercy;
through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer. **AMEN**



Spirit of God, teach us your ways,
that we may walk in the paths of peace.

May the Prince of Peace grant his peace that passes all understanding to us and to all those we love.
AMEN

There will be a retiring collection for the Royal British Legion – please use the buckets at the gates.

At the end of the service you are invited to come to the restored grave of Frank Barratt, where a wreath will be laid. And as you leave, please admire the refurbished War Memorial clock in the church tower.



Left: Geoffrey Middleton was the son of the Mulbarton Postmaster

Below: Record card for Clifford Arthur Kedge, captured by the Japanese and buried in Thailand. He was born in Mulbarton, but after he married he and his young wife lived in Bracon Ash.

收容所 Camp	泰 暹羅 / 曼谷 府 府 署	番 號 No.	泰 II 75364
姓 名 Name	Kedge, Clifford, Arthur	生 年 月 日 Date of Birth	1919. 1. 7
國 籍 Nationality	英 BRITISH	所 屬 部 隊 Unit	No. 5770310 4th. Bn. Royal Norfolk Regiment.
階 級 身 分 Rank	Private.	捕 獲 年 月 日 Date of Capture	昭和 17 年 2 月 15 日
捕 獲 場 所 Place of Capture	UPHUT-POAI 曼谷 府	母 之 名 Mother's Name	Unknown.
父 之 名 Father's Name	Richard.	職 業 Occupation	植 木 師
本 籍 地 Place of Origin	*The Retreat*, Stratton, N. Hants, England.	特 出 事 項 Remarks	
通 報 先 Destination of Report	Mr. G. Kedge, Hills,		