

## **Dorchester United Church Worship Service Sunday November 8, 2020**

**Prelude:** O Valiant Heart, I Vow to Thee My Country

### **Call to Worship**

On this day of Remembrance, O God, we give thanks:  
For peacekeepers and pacifists;  
for those who served on the front lines,  
and those who protest and march;  
for those who volunteered and those who waited anxiously at home;  
for those who hoped that things would get better,  
and those who could not stand by and wait.  
We give thanks for those who believed that the world could be a better place.  
We remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice,  
trusting that others could and would carry the torch.  
We give thanks for those who were once enemies who have become friends and  
allies.

### **Hymn: For the Healing of the Nations Voices United #678**

For the healing of the nations,  
    Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing  
    of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
    help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead your people into freedom,  
    from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
    all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how, through care and goodness,  
    fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,  
    let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling,  
    dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
    may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator-God, have written  
    your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness,  
    bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that by our response and service  
    earth its destiny may find.

**Litany of Lamentation**  
**Responsive Lament**

**Let us join in a litany of lamentation:**

How much longer do children around the world have to endure the ravages of war, trauma, terror, and confusion, wondering what they did to deserve such fear and dread?

**HOW MUCH LONGER, O HOLY ONE, HOW MUCH LONGER**

How much longer do they have to endure the insecurity of homelessness, displacement, and the lack of basic elements of ordinary life such as water, electricity, medicine, and schooling?

**HOW MUCH LONGER, O HOLY ONE, HOW MUCH LONGER**

How much longer do parents have to search through rubble to look for children they thought were safely in a shelter, in a school?

**HOW MUCH LONGER, O HOLY ONE, HOW MUCH LONGER**

How much longer does a mother have to wail primal cries of anguish at the inhuman conditions of the blockade that are heaped upon her family?

**HOW MUCH LONGER, O HOLY ONE, HOW MUCH LONGER**

How much longer does a father have to continue burying his children while being unable to grieve himself since there are more deaths and more children to lay to rest?

**HOW MUCH LONGER, O HOLY ONE, HOW MUCH LONGER**

How much longer will children seek shelter and wonder if their parents and loved ones will come home safely?

**HOW MUCH LONGER, O HOLY ONE, HOW MUCH LONGER**

How much longer will whole families feel they must leave their home and the land they love to go searching for some place of peace where they and those they love can thrive?

**HOW MUCH LONGER, O HOLY ONE, HOW MUCH LONGER**

How much longer will terror grip families, towns and nations, terror that is caused by violence and by structures and systems contributing to the oppression?

**HOW MUCH LONGER, O HOLY ONE, HOW MUCH LONGER**

How much longer will the collective memory of a people no longer remember a quiet night during which to sleep?

**HOW MUCH LONGER, O HOLY ONE, HOW MUCH LONGER**

How much longer will the stench of death, misery and bombs eclipse the beauty of creation?

**HOW MUCH LONGER, O HOLY ONE, HOW MUCH LONGER**

How much longer will the expectation of heartbreak, suffering and death be a way of life for so many?

**HOW MUCH LONGER, O HOLY ONE, HOW MUCH LONGER**

How much longer will it take for war zones to become peace zones of safety and wellbeing?

**HOW MUCH LONGER, O HOLY ONE, HOW MUCH LONGER**

## Prayer of the People

We offer to you, O God, our prayers for those who seek justice and resist evil.

We pray for those who need your presence and strength to stand firm; for those who are oppose the use of violence in any form in faithful response to the Prince of Peace.

We pray for those are prepared to be firm to protect those in danger.

We pray for those who walk with others who need strength.

We pray for those who protest, those who organize letter campaigns, those who give sacrificially on behalf of others.

We pray for those who speak the unpopular truth;

who protect the unpopular victims;

who choose the unpopular path of peace.

We pray for those who do not let their desire for peace hinder the requirements of justice,

and for those who do not let their zeal for justice override the call for peace.

“On This Day of Remembrance,” prayers for **Remembrance Sunday** by the Rev. Dr. Neil Parker, military chaplain at the 4th Canadian Division Training Centre in Meaford, ON

## Hymn: Though Ancient Walls Voices United #691

Though ancient walls may still stand proud  
and racial strife be fact,  
though boundaries may be lines of hate,  
proclaim God's saving act!

The truth we seek in varied scheme,  
the life that we pursue,  
unites us in a common quest  
of self and world made new.

REFRAIN:

Walls that divide are broken down;  
Christ is our unity!  
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;  
Christ is our liberty!

(Refrain)

The church divided seeks that grace,  
that newness we proclaim,  
a unity of serving love  
that lives praise to God's name.

When vested power stands firm entrenched  
and breaks another's back,  
when waste and want live side by side,  
it's Gospel that we lack.

(Refrain)

This broken world seeks lasting health  
and vital unity.  
God's people, by God's Word renewed,  
cast off all slavery.

(Refrain)

(Refrain)

## Our Young Peoples Prayer

May we announce by our lives the primacy of love  
May we offer forgiveness  
May we offer to build peace  
May we proclaim truth  
May we awaken faith  
May we bring an air of healing

May our spirits be renewed in hope  
May we find the gift of joy  
May we proclaim goodness is stronger  
May we be steadfast in working to promote and  
proclaim peace and justice

**Special Music:** The Lord is My Shepherd  
Duet by Jim and Norman Dundas St United Church

### **Children's Time with Ashely**

### **Remembrance Day Video**

#### **Offering of prayers**

Our faith traditions instruct us to "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."  
(Matthew 5:44)

Where do we find it within us to pray in times of such turmoil? As a simple beginning, we match our Litany of Lamentation with a Litany of Hope, praying from the core of our beings that violence and hatred cease.

Women: When hatred dominates...  
Men: When we are seriously offended...  
Women: When conflict is rampant...  
Men: When error is entrenched...  
Women: When doubt paralyzes...  
Men: When distress weighs heavily...  
Women: When we are tempted to despair...  
Men: When sadness reigns...  
Women: When confronted by evil...  
Men: When our hearts are wrenched by injustice...

#### **Lord's Prayer**

... may we announce by our lives the primacy of love.  
... may we offer forgiveness.  
... may we offer to build peace.  
... may we proclaim truth.  
... may we awaken faith.  
... may we bring an air of healing.  
... may our spirits be renewed in hope.  
... may we find the gift of joy.  
... may we proclaim that goodness is stronger.  
... may we be steadfast in working to promote and proclaim peace with justice.

#### **Video of Atrocities**

## Scriptures

### Psalms 82:3-4

Give justice to the weak and the orphan;  
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.  
Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.'

### Philippians 2: 3-4

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

### Isaiah 2:4

He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

### Joel 3:10

Beat your ploughshares into swords,  
and your pruning-hooks into spears;  
let the weakling say, 'I am a warrior.'

### Micah 4:3

He shall judge between many peoples,  
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more;

**Sermon:**

**Last Post**

**Two Minutes of Silence**

**Hymn: Make Channel of Your Peace Voices United #684**

Make me a channel of Your peace  
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love  
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in You

Make me a channel of Your peace  
It is pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all men that we receive  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life

Make me a channel of Your peace  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring  
hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness, ever joy

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of Your peace  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring  
hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness, ever joy

**Remembrance Benediction**

Go into the world to serve God with gladness;  
Hold fast to that which is good;  
Strengthen the fainthearted;  
Support the weak;  
Help the afflicted;  
Honour all people;  
Love and serve God,  
And do all these things in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen

**Postlude: Largo By Handel**