



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2020

Poppies on Pans Lane railway embankment June 2020

**'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'**



It's interesting that Laurence Binyan's poem 'For the Fallen' was written in September 1914, only a month after the outbreak of the 1st World War. He was too old to enlist in the military forces but he went to work for the Red Cross as a medical orderly in 1916. He lost several close friends and his brother-in-law in the war.

This time in November has developed as a particular time for remembrance with All Saints Day last Sunday and today being Remembrance Sunday – and '*Remember, remember the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot!*' It is a time when we remember the many soldiers, sailors and airmen who gave their lives in wars for their countries, and it is those that are particularly remembered on our war memorials. But I think we are increasingly conscious that many, many more lived with their memories of the battlefields for decades afterwards. Memories and nightmares that so many never spoke about. That is why I am so pleased that our war memorial tablet in St Andrews includes those who 'suffered as a result of war'. This inclusion was something Brian very much wanted when the tablet was being designed, partly because his father was in the army in WW2 as a gunner on merchant ships including on the Atlantic convoys. He did not die till the 1980's.

This is a time of our thoughts go to the need for peace and reconciliation. US President-elect Joe Biden is today calling for the states not to be blue or red, but be the **United** States. It's my great hope we remain a United Kingdom too. In a peculiar way Covid 19 has unified the world – an 'enemy' by which many have died and an 'enemy' we are all trying to withstand, endure and fight, all be it by slightly different ways.

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.*

*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.*

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

The traditional hymn below was sung to a faster more rousing tune in the Local Radio service this morning. I have now just watched the service at the Cenotaph this morning. The quiet atmosphere was described as surreal.

I went outside here briefly this morning and in the dull dampness all was eerily silent.

Through the night of doubt and

*sorrow,
onward goes the pilgrim band,
singing songs of expectation,
marching to the promised land..
Clear before us through the darkness
gleams and burns the guiding light:
trusting God we march together
stepping fearless through the night.*



*One the hope our God inspires.
One the strain the lips of thousands
lift as from the heart of one;
One the conflict, one the peril,
One the march in God begun:
One the gladness of rejoicing
on the far eternal shore,
where the one almighty Father
Reigns in love for evermore*

In this year 2020, two major anniversaries have occurred – both linked with war, reconciliation, and the coming of peace. One hundred years ago, on 11th November 1920 the Cenotaph in Whitehall was unveiled. King George V reflected on the occasion: ‘At 11.0. I unveiled the Cenotaph and then followed two minutes silence throughout the whole Empire. The whole ceremony was most moving & impressive. I then followed the gun carriage (of the Unknown Soldier) on foot to Westminster Abbey where the burial took place, the grave was filled in with soil brought from France’. Secondly, in 2020 we have also remembered VE and VJ Days marking 75 years since the end of the 2nd World War.

*Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be*

*With God as our Father
Brothers all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.*



*Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.*

*With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me*

O may this bounteous God
*Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.*

To the fallen

