



Sunday Service

Sunday 8th November 2020

The Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity
Remembrance Sunday

Wisdom for living in a mixed up world (6)

We are all mortal

Opening Prayer

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end; that through our praise, prayers and lives, all may come to know your Saving Grace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible reading

¹So I reflected on all this and concluded that the righteous and the wise and what they do are in God's hands, but no one knows whether love or hate awaits them. ²All share a common destiny – the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, the clean and the unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not.

As it is with the good,
so with the sinful;

as it is with those who take oaths,
so with those who are afraid to take them.

³This is the evil in everything that happens under the sun: The same destiny overtakes all. The hearts of people, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live, and afterwards they join the dead.

⁴Anyone who is among the living has hope – even a live dog is better off than a dead lion!

⁵For the living know that they will die,
but the dead know nothing;
they have no further reward,
and even their name is forgotten.

⁶Their love, their hate
and their jealousy have long since vanished;
never again will they have a part
in anything that happens under the sun.

⁷Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do.

⁸Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil. ⁹Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun – all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labour under the sun. ¹⁰Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

¹¹I have seen something else under the sun:

The race is not to the swift
or the battle to the strong,
nor does food come to the wise
or wealth to the brilliant
or favour to the learned;
but time and chance happen to them all.

¹²Moreover, no one knows when their hour will come:

As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare,
so people are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them. Wisdom better than folly

¹³I also saw under the sun this example of wisdom that greatly impressed me: ¹⁴there was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge siege works against it. ¹⁵Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by his wisdom. But nobody remembered that poor man.

¹⁶So I said, 'Wisdom is better than strength.' But the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are no longer heeded.

¹⁷The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of fools.

¹⁸Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

Ecclesiastes 9 : 1 - 18

Reflection : We are all mortal

- Remembrance Sunday – Our own mortality
- Being Real
 - The randomness of death (v 1 – 6)
 - Where is God in the pain of death?
 - No rose-tinted glasses here
- Get on with living even if all seems to be unfair (v 7 – 12)
- Look beyond mortality (v 13 – 18)
 - Don't blame God for the mess
 - Trust in the Word of God even when it is unpopular

“The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of fools.” (9 : 17)

Act of Remembrance

Almighty and everlasting God, we give you humble thanks for the memory and good example of those who have laid down their lives in times of armed conflict in the service of justice, truth and peace. We thank you for their courage and devotion even unto death. We beseech you, let it not be in vain that they have died in the cause of righteousness and honour; and in your mercy send your peace into the hearts of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Leader : They shall not grow 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

When you go home tell them of us and say for your tomorrow, we gave our today.

Reveille

O Lord, on this Remembrance Day, we come in gratitude for all who have died that we might live, for all who have endured pain that we might know joy, for all who have suffered imprisonment that we might know freedom. Turn our deep resolve into determination, and our determination into deeds, that as they died for peace, we may live for peace in all nations, for the sake of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Final Blessing

Lord God, hold us firm in your love, and help us to know your presence and your peace.

And now may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for ever more. Amen.