

2025 - Remembrance Sunday

Psalm 17.1-9 NIV

A prayer of David.

¹ Hear me, Lord, my plea is just;
listen to my cry.

Hear my prayer—
it does not rise from deceitful lips.

² Let my vindication come from you;
may your eyes see what is right.

³ Though you probe my heart,
though you examine me at night and test me,
you will find that I have planned no evil;
my mouth has not transgressed.

⁴ Though people tried to bribe me,
I have kept myself from the ways of the violent
through what your lips have commanded.

⁵ My steps have held to your paths;
my feet have not stumbled.

⁶ I call on you, my God, for you will answer me;
turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.

⁷ Show me the wonders of your great love,
you who save by your right hand
those who take refuge in you from their foes.

⁸ Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings

⁹ from the wicked who are out to destroy me,
from my mortal enemies who surround me.

2 Thessalonians 2:1–17 NIV

¹ Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. ³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

⁵ Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?

¹³ But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵ **So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.**

¹⁶ May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷ encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

NB: the sermon preached on the day will have contained other content developing the themes included and responding to the context at the time. Please be aware that the content below is provided as it was printed for use on the day and hasn't been checked in detail for spelling or other errors.

A few days away on holiday last week in Oban Scotland - gave me the chance to see life a little differently which can be good and can get you thinking about life and how its lived... as you step out of your usual routines and **literally see things differently** – as there are some different things to see...

Coming and going throughout the week I passed the **War memorial** by the shoreline – that gives its invitation into remembering those from the town who fought and died in the 2 great wars... and in this case the Falklands war too, a reminder that sacrifice in conflict went on...

It struck me how familiar to me they are – these reminders of the impact of the 1st and 2nd world wars on our nation and the lives of those who lived through them - **with each placed by communities across the land to honour and remember** those who gave their lives...

Passing by several times I stood next to it **one day** sheltering from the rain and was joined by others seeking some respite too from the downpour with no other shelter on offer... **another time** I watched as those out for a good long run ran up to it, around it and set off back home... **and I caught sight of it** from

a distance lit up along with the other features across the bay to help it stand out as the sun sets and night draws in...

Today it will - like the memorial in our community, it be a focus for Remembering together with names read, poppy wreaths laid, silence shared and a commitment to peace entered into...

Psalm 17 - David was no stranger to conflict, to being in that place of mortal danger where you may find yourself giving up your life.

Today we hear him pray to the God he trusts in, being someone who looks to **let something of this loving, trustworthy, faithful God** be seen in who he is AND ultimately, he prays for God to step in and rescue him from dangers that are way beyond his capacity to see himself safely through...

It's the kind of praying that will have been familiar I imagine to many of those who are being remembered today... In this world that is at war, in this moment before me - step in and rescue, see me safely through...

It's the kind of praying that Jesus was familiar with too – as he lived and faced death, **so it can give us hope that even where death does come - as it did for him**, there can be hope too through trusting in the God who even here can step in, rescue and bring you safely through to a new, resurrection way of life and living...

With the state of the world around us today and many facing moments when war and conflict touch their lives - **there is then an invitation today for us to bring this into our prayers.**

2. Thess - As we hear Paul encouraging his brothers and sisters in Christ to 'stand firm and hold fast to the teachings passed on to them - by word of mouth or by letter...' v15 He is urging them to REMEMBER that God is at work in them and among them through the Holy Spirit – who's leading them into faith filled lives and equipping them to live these out in the lives they live – ones that speak of **the peace, justice and the self-giving love** that brings life to others and that ring true when the lives we live and the way we live them - leave people sensing something of God's presence in them.

As we share together today in Remembering - the memorials that we gather around **speak too** and are an invitation not just to honour and remember those who gave their lives in sacrifice for the good of those who go on living - **but to work out what this can look like in the lives lived then in response?**

I can wonder this and offer it for us to think on today, **but I cannot say what this means for each of us...** as how would I, how could I know?

But what I feel I can say is this – perhaps we can imagine them before us now and bring to mind some of the good things that can be seen in the lives we live that affirm our **THANKFUL remembering** – **and our readiness to give what we can today to help bring peace where it is needed, justice where it is lacking and the self-giving love that brings life to others**

Ready for tomorrow – as the memorials around us become again places for shelter, a guide for when to turn around and head back home and a beacon that says I am here – **let us bring this into prayer, that in these moments too there can be REMEMBERING.**