REMEMBRANCE POPPIES

Why do we wear them?

Poppies became the symbol of Remembrance because they were the resilient flowers that bloomed across the churned-up battlefields of the Western Front during World War I, famously described in John McCrae's 1915 poem *"In Flanders Fields"*.

"In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place"

Four Colours of Remembrance

The Red Poppy

The traditional symbol of remembrance and hope, honouring military service personnel who lost their lives in World War I and all subsequent conflicts. The red poppies we buy to wear this day are made by the Royal British Legion and raise funds for living veterans and their families.

The White Poppy

Distributed by the Peace Pledge Union and focuses on remembering all victims of war—including civilians as well as service members—while also promoting peace and campaigning against war.

The Purple Poppy

Remembers animal victims of war (such as horses, dogs, and pigeons) that suffered, got injured, or died during military service.

The Black Poppy

Was created by the BlackPoppyRose movement to commemorate the enormous contribution, service and courage of Black, African, Caribbean, and Indigenous communities in war efforts – stories that have, for too long, been ignored due to racism.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

St George the Martyr Church, Shirley, Croydon

Remembrance Sunday **8th November 2026**

GATHERING HYMN:
'For the Healing of the Nations' (170)



COLLECT:
Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

FIRST READING **Wisdom 6: 12-16**

Wisdom shines brightly and never fades.
She is easily recognized by those who love her
and look for her.
Wisdom wants to be known by those who desire her.
If you get up early to look for wisdom
you find her at your door.
Just thinking about Wisdom leads to full understanding,
and caring about Wisdom will soon set you free from all other cares.
Wisdom searches eagerly for those who are seeking,
and she lets them find her in all of their thoughts.

For the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

SECOND READING **1 Thessalonians 4: 13—end**

My friends, we want you to understand how it will be for those followers who have already died. Then you won't grieve over them and be like people who don't have any hope. We believe Jesus died and was raised to life. We also believe that when God brings Jesus back again, he will bring with him all who had faith in Jesus before they died. Our Lord Jesus told us that when he comes, we won't go up to meet him ahead of his followers who have already died.

With a loud command and with the shout of the chief angel and a blast of God's trumpet, the Lord will return from heaven. Then those who had faith in Christ before they died will be raised to life. Next, all of us who are still alive will be taken up into the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the sky. From that time on we will all be with the Lord forever. Encourage each other with these words.

For the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

GRADUAL HYMN: 'All Who Would Valiant Be' (27)

We sing verse 3 after the Gospel Reading

GOSPEL **Matthew 25: 1-13**

The kingdom of heaven is like what happened one night when ten young women took their oil lamps and went to a wedding to meet the groom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps, but no extra oil. The ones who were wise took along extra oil for their lamps.

The groom was late arriving, and the young women became drowsy and fell asleep. Then in the middle of the night someone shouted, "Here's the groom! Come to meet him!"

When the women got up and started getting their lamps ready, 8the foolish ones said to the others, "Let us have some of your oil! Our lamps are going out."

Those who were wise answered, "There's not enough oil for all of us! Go and buy some for yourselves."

While the foolish ones were on their way to get some oil, the groom arrived. The five who were ready went into the wedding, and the doors were closed. Later the others returned and shouted, "Sir, sir! Open the door for us!"

But the groom replied, "I don't even know you!"

So, my disciples, always be ready! You don't know the day or the time when all this will happen.

OFFERTORY HYMN:
'O God our Help in Ages Past' (483)

COMMUNION HYMNS:

'Beauty for Brokenness' (54)

'Make Me a Channel of Your Peace' (435)

'Peace Perfect Peace' (541)

POST COMMUNION

God of peace,
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom
and restored the broken to wholeness of life:
look with compassion on the anguish of the world,
and by your healing power
make whole both people and nations;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

FINAL HYMN: 'And Did Those Feet in Ancient Times' (32)

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