BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

Civic Service of Remembrance

Sunday 8th November 2026

9.30am

Before the Service

Please remain seated as the Lord Lieutenant and dignitaries are escorted to their seats in the Nave.

Procession before the Service

His Majesty's Coroner

The Honourable Adnan Hussain MP

Chief Constable of Lancashire

The Leader and Chief Executive of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Mace Bearer

The Mayor and Mayoress of Blackburn with Darwen

Lord Lieutenant's Cadets

His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire and Mr Robert Parker DL

The Cathedral Procession

Processional Cross

The Cathedral Youth Choir

Virger

The Canon Missioner

The Interim Dean

Virger

The Bishop of Blackburn

Welcome
to this morning's service

The service is led by
Canon Andrew Horsfall
Interim Dean

The Preacher is
The Rt Revd Philip North
Bishop of Blackburn

The service is sung by
The Cathedral Youth Choir
Directed by
Helen Davies

The Organist is
Nigel Spooner
Associate Organist

The Band is
Blackburn and Darwen Band
Directed by
Daniel Thomas

Before the service, the Lord Lieutenant and Civic Dignitaries are escorted to their seats in the Nave.

The congregation is welcomed by Canon Andrew Horsfall, Interim Dean
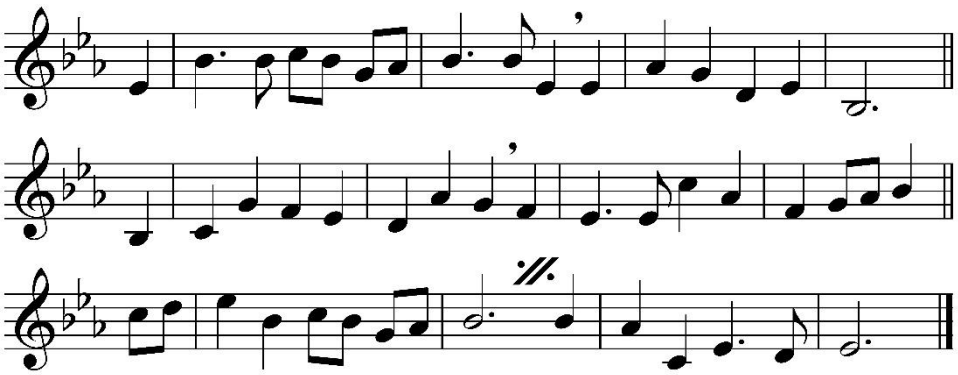
The Gathering

During the processional hymn standards are received

Please stand to sing

Processional

REPTON NEH 353



Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

John Whittier (1807-92)

The Bidding

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40.31

What does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6.8

We gather here today in the presence of Almighty God:

to commit ourselves to work
in penitence and faith
for reconciliation between the nations,
that all people may, together,
live in freedom, justice and peace;
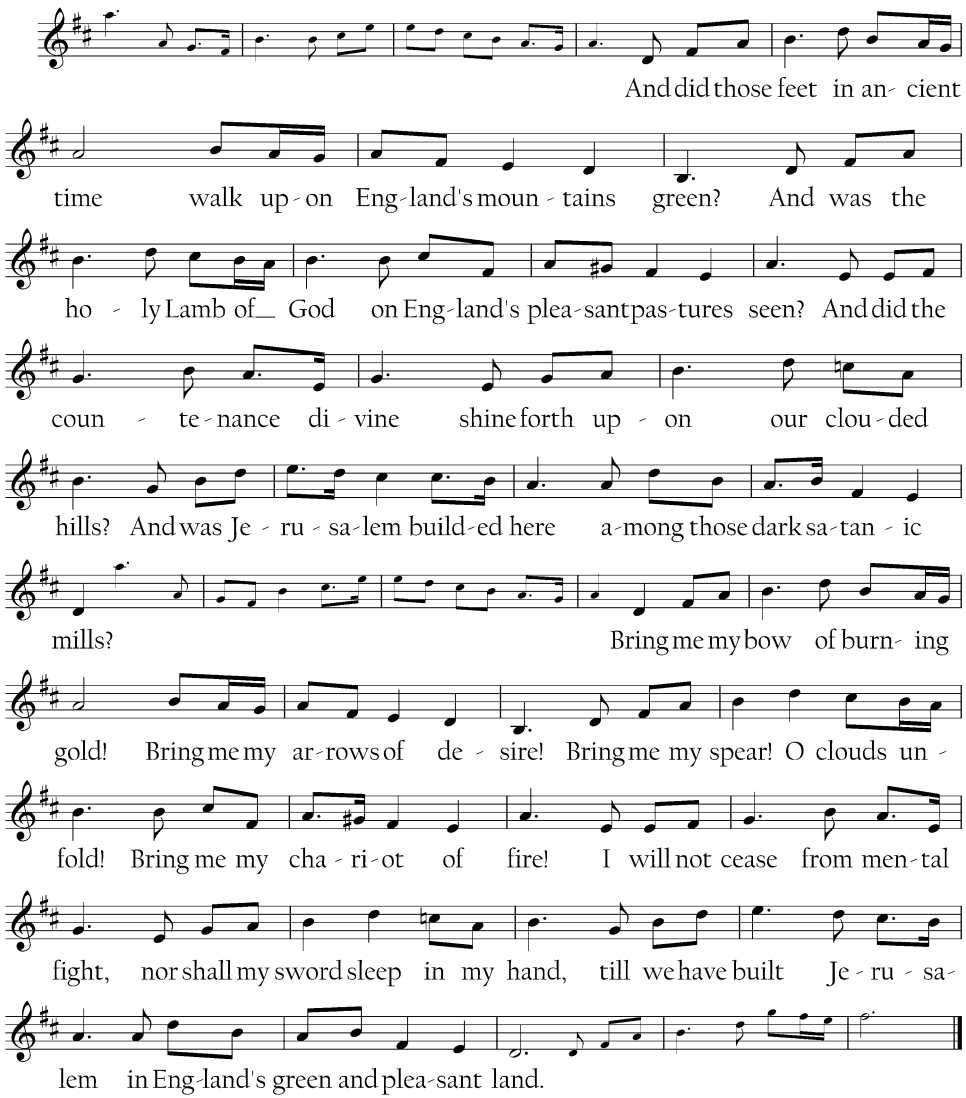
to pray for all
who in bereavement, disability and pain
continue to suffer the consequences of
fighting and terror;

to remember with thanksgiving and sorrow
those whose lives,
in world wars and conflicts past and present,
have been given and taken away.

Ever-living God,
we remember those whom you have gathered
from the storm of war into the peace of your presence;
may that same peace calm our fears,
bring justice to all peoples
and establish harmony among the nations,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn

JERUSALEM NEH 488



C.H. Parry (1848-1918)

Please sit

Poem

(Anon)

Read by Councillor Mahfooz Hussain

Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen
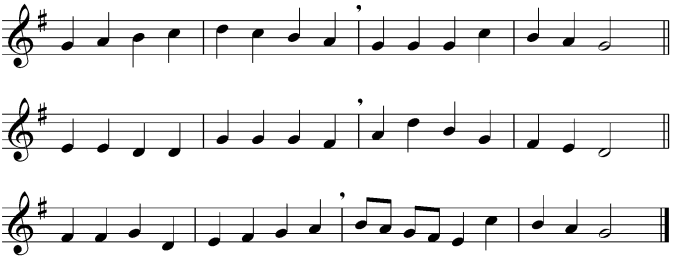
We wear a poppy, pause, and stand,
Remembering those who gave their all.
In quiet thanks, we hold their names,
And hope for peace beyond this day.

As silence falls, we think of them,
Of Lives once lived, and dreams once known,
Their memory stays with us today,
We will remember them.

Please stand to sing

Hymn

ALLELUIA DULCE CARMEN



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 us forward 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.

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

Please sit

New Testament Reading

(1 Thessalonians 4.13-end)

Read by Mrs Amanda Parker JP, HM
Lord - Lieutenant of Lancashire

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Here ends the reading.

Sermon

The Rt Revd Philip North

Band

Be Still and Know — *Phillip Rayment (b.1965)*
based on Psalm 46

Please remain seated or kneel for the prayers

A Litany of Hope

Led by Canon James Lawrence

Let us pray with hope for the future of the world
and for the needs of all people.

For peace and justice in our world,
for an end to war and conflict,
for the leaders of all nations and peoples,
and for those who make peace and foster reconciliation.

May God give peace,
God give peace.

For the unity of all Christian people,
for the Church of God in every land,
for all who seek God and the truth,
and for all who follow the way of conscience with integrity.

May God give peace,
God give peace.

For the healing of memories,
for those who suffer as a result of war,
for communities where past wrongs and violence persist,
for all in pain or distress and those who care for them.

May God give peace,
God give peace.

For friendship and trust amongst all,
for an appreciation of our interdependence,
for the new partnerships between the nations,
and for a world that is in harmony with itself.

May God give peace,
God give peace.

The choir sings

So they gave their bodies to the commonwealth, and received praise that will never die, and a home in the minds of men. Their story lives on without visible symbol, woven into the stuff of other men's lives

Peter Aston (1938 - 2013)

The intercessor continues:

O God of truth and justice,
we hold before you those whose memory we cherish,
and those whose names we will never know.
Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world,
and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.
As we remember the past, may we put our faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer
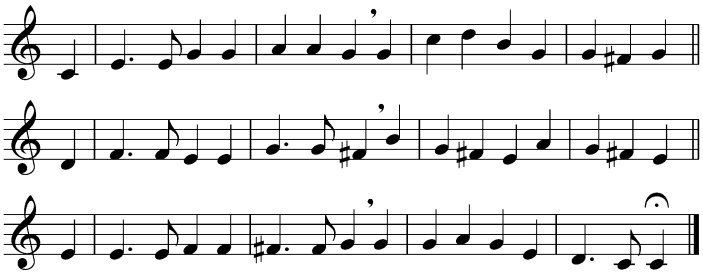
Joining our prayers with those of the Church Universal, so we say, each in our own language, the prayer our Saviour taught us,

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Final Hymn

A collection is taken during this hymn MELITA 354

The standard bearers retrieve their standards



Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Saviour, whose almighty word
the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walkedst on the foaming deep,
and calm amid its rage didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O sacred Spirit, who didst brood
upon the chaos dark and rude,
who bad'st its angry tumult cease,
and gavest light and life and peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
sustain us all in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect us whereso'er we go:
and ever let there rise to thee
glad hymns of praise from land and sea. *William Whiting (1825-1878)*

Act of Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God
and our fellow men and women:
that we may help, encourage and comfort others,
and support those working for the relief of the needy
and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind,
in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom; give us courage;
give us hope;
and keep us faithful now and always.
Amen.

The choir sings

She didn't know, as she watched him go,
if she would ever hold him in her arms again.
Waved goodbye, trying hard not to cry,
wond'ring when this dreadful war would ever end.
And ev'ry day, in the knowledge that he could get unlucky in the fight,
and make the biggest sacrifice of all.
So sing it out:
We will remember them
until the seas run dry,
come November when we hear our children ask us why,
in two minutes of silence, all the world stands still?
We will remember them, and forever and ever, we will.
Some survived, standing tall with pride,
as the poppy petals fall before our eyes.
It's to them and to those who died we owe our freedom,
for us they paid the price.
For evermore it is our duty to help to heal the human race,
t make the world a better place for all.

Standing shoulder to shoulder we sing our songs.
we sing them loud!
And together we feel bolder, we are strong

And we are proud!
Through our singing we unite,
As it was then, and still is now.
Why sing with us.
Alexander L' Estrange(b.1974) and Joanna Forbes L' Estrange (b.1971)

The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the King,
the Commonwealth, and all people,
unity, peace and concord;
and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

National Anthem

God save our gracious King,
long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us;
God save the King!

Not on this land alone,
but be God's mercies known
from shore to shore.
Lord, make the nations see
that we in unity
should form one family
the wide world o'er.

Recessional

Organ Voluntary

Fugue in Eb BWV 552ii J S Bach (1685-1750)

The standard bearers and ministers recess followed by the Lord Lieutenant, Mayor and Civic Party.

Please remain standing until they have left the building.

Flowers today are given by Joy and Stuart Rothwell in loving memory of Tom .

The Order of Parade

King William Street to the Garden of Remembrance, Corporation Park
Via Sudell Cross and Preston New Road.

Mounted Police Officers

Blackburn & Darwen Band

Standard Bearers

Wreath Bearers

Royal British Legion

Ex-Service men and women and Military Associations

Royal Navy & Royal Marines

B (Somme) Company 4th Battalion The Duke Of Lancaster's Regiment

Royal Air Force

Blackburn Unit Sea Cadet Corps

Blackburn Army Cadet Force Royal Signals

Blackburn Army Cadet Force DLR

Blackburn Air Training Corps

Lancashire Constabulary

Blackburn Fire and Rescue Service

St John Ambulance Brigade

British Red Cross

Blackburn and District Scouts

Blackburn Guides

Justices of the Peace and their Clerk

Borough Councillors

Past Mayors & Mayoresses / Consorts

Representatives of other organisations

and citizens of the borough

Police Officer

BLACKBURN with DARWEN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Remembrance Sunday
Corporation Park

Hymn

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home;

beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly, forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Isaac Watts (1674 - 1748)

Canon Andrew Horsfall says

Let us remember before God,
and commend to his safe keeping,
those who have died for their country in war;
those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure;
and all who have lived and died
in the service of the peoples of the world.

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.
We will remember them.

The Bugler

The Last Post

The Silence

The Reveille

The Laying of Wreaths

(See order on the inside back page)

Canon Andrew Horsfall says

Almighty and Eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life;
hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of love, and bring us,
with them, to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

The Act of Commitment

We say together

Lord God Our Father, we pledge ourselves
to serve you and all humanity in the cause of peace;
for the relief of want and suffering
and for the praise of your name.

Guide us by your Spirit,
give us wisdom,
give us courage,
give us hope,
and keep us faithful,
now and always.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

National Anthem

God save our gracious King,
long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us;
God save the King!

Wreath Laying Order

An Officer of The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment will call out the names of the organisations who will be laying wreaths in the following order.

Civic Authorities

Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire

The Mayor and Mayoress of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

His Majesty's Coroner

The Leader and Chief Executive
of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

The Honourable Adnan Hussain MP

Lancashire Constabulary

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service

The Youth Forum

Ex-Servicemen and Military Organisations

The Royal British Legion

All those representing Ex-Service men and women and Military Organisations wishing to lay a wreath are asked to form up in rows of three in the centre of the Garden of Remembrance.

Representatives of other organisations

All those representing other organisations wishing to lay a wreath are requested to form up in rows of three to the left of the Garden of Remembrance.

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