

Sermon
11 November 2018
West Kirk of Calder & Polbeth Harwood

By: Rev Dr Jonanda Groenewald

Reading: John 14:23-27

Remembrance

1. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

2. Today, we are remembering the dead. The countless people who gave their lives during the War.

Some of them went to war, and died just a day later. Others fought long and hard, and some of them died the day before the War ended.

They didn't get to see what they fought for, they didn't get to see what they did for us.

All we can see of them now are the white gravestones, reminding us who they were; but although we can't see them anymore, the legacy they left us are still very much alive and visible all around us – the privilege to live life in freedom.

So, although they are not here anymore; in a way, they still are...

3. But today we are also remembering those who came back.

The ones who got to see their loved ones again, who had new hope for the future, but who saw and experienced so many unspeakable horrors. These horrors – invisible to those around them – they had to carry with them all through the rest of their lives.

Some of them might even have been able to see the good their sacrifices brought about, but that invisible burden they had to carry, cast a shadow over all the days they got to live after the war.

They were there, back home; but at the same time, they were not.

4. Today we remember those who are here, but not here.

What those people did for us during the 1st World War, but also during the 2nd World War and numerous other conflicts, what so many soldiers are still doing for us today – bind us together in a very special way. In a way we can't see, but a way we can feel.

We have 2 silhouettes of soldiers sitting here with us today.

Who are they for you? Your granddad? Your dad? Your uncle? Or just an unnamed soldier, who fought so you can live the life you have today?

No matter who they are to you and how much of what they did you truly understand, they are part of your story.

So let's always remember them.

Jesus said: My peace I give to you.

There is no greater gift than peace – ask anybody who's ever fought in a war.

Jesus fought a war of a different kind, he suffered and died, for us. So let's accept the peace he payed such a high price for, and share it with all those around us, and with people all around the world.

Peace is not something we can see either. But the affects of peace are cleary visible in the absence of war, in the giving of love.

Let's strive for peace so that our story will be a story of hope.

For the sake of those who fought so hard for it, and for the sake of generations to come.

Amen