**Order of Service:**

Introduction

Hymn: O God Our Help In Ages Past

Opening Prayer

Introduction to the Theme (Video)

Psalm 46: God is Our Refuge and strength …

Hymn: Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God

Prayers: Our Small Difference

Two Minutes Silence

Hymn: Beauty for Brokenness

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11.1-2 / 13-16 / 12.1-2

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

Lord’s Prayer

Hymn: Be Thou My Vision

This service uses excerpts from the short film The REV Memorial Ride.

This film can be watched in full by searching for “REV Memorial Ride”.

**Roles:**

Minister: Daniel Harris

Bible Readers: Psalm 46 (…..) and Hebrews 11 (….)

Prayer: Our Small Difference (….)

They Shall Not Grow Old As We Grow Old (….)

**Video:**

Hebrews 11: Wendy Smith

They Shall Not Grow Old As We Grow Old: Jed Garside

**Slide 1sx**

**Banners Are Paraded to the Front: (10.30)**

*Minister receives banners.*

**Introduction:**

This morning we come to remember and pay our respects to those who paid the ultimate price in conflicts around the world.

We also think of those currently serving in the armed forces, or are now living as civilians within our communities.

But we are also going to ask a question of ourselves.

It is a question in two parts:

“What challenges is the world facing today, and how might we respond?”

(Repeat question.)

We will come back to this question as we journey through our time of remembrance this morning.

**Slides 2-5**

**Call To Worship:**

We start with our call to worship.

In you are unfamiliar with how church do things, this is our starter’s whistle.

Calling us to come to God in prayer mindful that we don’t have to walk alone through this life.

Psalm 121 says:

I lift up my eyes to the hills—

    from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord,

    who made heaven and earth.

The Lord keeps watch over you

As you come and go,

Both now and forever. Amen.

Please join me in prayer and respond with the red font.

We meet in the presence of God

To remember the past

To pray for today

And live in hope for the future.

We commit ourselves to work

In penitence and faith

For peace between nations

That all may live together

In freedom, justice and peace.

We pray for all

Who continue to sufferer

The effects of fighting and terror

Through loss, disability and pain.

And we declare our hope in God

Who promises to bring to an end, one day

To conflict and war

To wipe away all tears and sorrow

And make all things new

Amen.

**Hymn: God Our Help in Ages Past**

**Slide 7**

**Introduction to the Theme: (10.40)**

Earlier I asked us to consider the question “What challenges is the world facing, and whow might we respond?

There are many challenges that face us today.

Arguably, three of the biggest threats to us are ….

* **Slide 8** Climate change
* **Slide 9**: Modernising of global nuclear weapons and COVID

Do we feel that we are able to help meet these challenges?

**Slide 10:**

One hundred years ago, our great-great-great (is that enough “greats”?) grandparents faced this dilemma too.

The biggest threat that they faced was the world falling into its first ever global war.

One particular young man, called William Watson, tried to consider what he might do to help.

He wasn’t a politician, he wasn’t a religious leader.

He was a young man who liked riding motorcycles.

And then he heard that the army was looking for motorcyclists who could become dispatch riders working on the Western Front, so he signed up.

A few years ago I was involved in the filming of a documentary following Captain William Watson’s adventures during the First World War.

So I would like to introduce you to Sam McKinven who will be our guide.

**Slide 11:**

**REV Memorial Ride - Part One**

**Slides 12-14**

**Psalm 46. (10.50)**

We live in a world where it is possible to feel things might overwhelm us.

Please hear these words and be comforted.

God is our refuge and strength,

    an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way

    and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam

    and the mountains quake with their surging.[c] …

He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;

    I will be exalted among the nations,

    I will be exalted in the earth.”

The Lord Almighty is with us;

    the God of Jacob is our fortress.

**Hymn: Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God**

**Slide 15**

**Our Small Difference - A Prayer.**

We may not be able to confront queens,

or challenge presidents;

We may not have the capacity to divert resources,

or uplift communities;

We may not have the voice to silence the noise of war,

or the words to negotiate peace between armies;

But, as we follow you, O Christ, we are able to do something.

And so, we pray that you would inspire us

to commit to and act on

the small difference we can make:

May we bring peace

through small acts of gentleness

and reconciliation;

May we bring wealth

through small contributions

and collaborations;

May we bring safety

through small acts of consideration

and acceptance;

May we bring wholeness

through small acts of care

and service.

And in the small ways, O God,

may our small difference make a big contribution

to your saving work in our world.

Amen.

**Slide 16**

**Two Minute’s Silence**

Friends, let us remember in silence before God all those who have died in war, remembering all who suffered, and committing ourselves to work for peace.

*Play video on slide - it will include the two minute silence until it fades to black.*

**Slide 17**

**They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old.**

Age shall not weary them or the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

**Slide 18**

**Prayer**

Ever-living God, we remember those you have gathered from the storms of war

Into the peace of your presence.

May that same peace calm our fears

Bring justice to all

Establish harmony among the nations, inspiring us to come together peacefully to problem solve the challenges that the world faces.

Amen.

**Hymn: Beauty for Brokenness**

**Slide 19:**

**REV Memorial Ride Part 2:**

**Slide 20:**

**Scripture: Hebrews 11.1-2 / 13-16 / 12.1-3**

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. **2**This is what the ancients were commended for.

13-16All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. **14**People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. **15**If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. **16**Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

12.1-3 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **2**fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3**Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart

**Slide 21**

**Reflection:**

Please can I remind us of the question I used to open up today’s service:

“What challenges is the world facing today, and how might we respond?”

There are many of us who have not served, and cannot hope to imagine what it is like to be in the armed forces.

People join up for many reasons, but I think one of those reasons might include these:

One person might look around the world and sees that there is something wrong in the world, and wants to make it better.

Alternatively, another person might have one of those epiphany moments.

They suddenly realise that this everyday thing called life is a beautiful thing, and its worth defending.

Fro whatever reason, you have a sense that the world should be different.

It might be hard to put into words, it may be intangible.

But in some small way, you want to make the world a better place

This is world-building; it is an act of creativity.

Imagine the world years from now.

This world has has not yet taken shape and we certainly cannot yet see it.

Despite not yet existing, this future world is worth defending, creating and fighting for - in the here and now.

These may be some of the motivations that people, such as Captain William Watson, might have experienced when serving in the armed services.

So let me ask you again: “What challenges is the world facing and how might we respond?”

During the filming of the REV Memorial Ride we visited memorials such as Vimmy Ridge, the memorial commemorating fallen Canadian soldiers, and the Menin Gate in Ypres designed by Sir Reginald Blomsfeld.

Both of these memorials have the names of thousands of soldiers killed in battle inscribed on the walls.

When you put your hand on those walls, and feel the inscriptions of those names, you are reaching out across the generations to touch those soldiers lives.

It makes you wonder, if you could have a conversation with those soldiers in the past, and if you tell that how the world turned out in the end - would they be happy?

Our presenter Sam McKinven was one of those young people who had never really considered why these wars happened.

The trip was deeply profound for her - so much so, that she returned to the Western Front a few years later with a friend to share the experience.

Let’s now consider our scripture reading.

The context of the reading describes a Jewish Hall of Fame, similar to those memorial walls with soldiers’ names, listing hero after hero who died to make Israel a better place.

They couldn’t see what the future held, but they too laid down their lives for that future.

But they also had their eyes on another place - the heavenly country, the place where God resides beyond human senses - a place where we are invited to ultimately spend eternity.

The heavenly country inspired them to make this world a better place.

You see, that heavenly perspective is essential.

It reminds us that this planet is good, and that everyone can be redeemed.

It also remind us that there is so much more to life than the physical world around.

This heavenly perspective can be of the deepest encouragement to us.

I am certain many soldiers had this faith too.

Often we think that deaths on the battlefields can be violent and lonely events - which they are.

But our scripture reading tells us of a wider vision.

There is this great cloud of witnesses in heaven encouraging us to keep going - to keep the faith.

At the end of this journey we call life is a finish line.

Jesus is waiting there calling to us and encouraging us to keep going - to keep the faith.

Jesus is central to this grand vision as he is described as the author and perfecter of our faith.

You don’t have to be a soldier to see the threats that this world faces, and decide to do something about it.

There are countless people I can think of who are already doing this.

Hundreds of people have pilgrimaged to Glasgow to remind the politicians at COP 26 that we need to act fast to save the planet from drastic global warning.

I fear that Greta Thumberg and former President Barack Obama are right when they say that the politicians aren’t doing enough.

Obama tells young people to “stay angry” in the fight against climate change.

If you want to make this world a better place, then let me tell you this.

The God who made the Universe agrees with you.

This world should be better.

This is why we pray in the Lord’s Prayer, “Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

But you don’t have to take on this battle alone - because if you do I fear you might become disillusioned, burnt out, or the scale of the task could have a negative effect on your mental health.

Remembrance Day is a sober reminder that humanity has a darker side.

Year after year we return to this date remembering more people who have died, adding another battle to the list.

Many of us are broken, wounded and in dire need of love and forgiveness.

This is why we need the transforming love of God to guide us.

This is made possible by the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ.

God calls us as we are to seize the vision

To make this world a better place

To dream of a world which hasn’t yet taken shape.

We might not see it in our lifetimes.

But Good encourages to gain the heavenly perspective.

And when we reach the heavenly country you’ll be cheering the next generation on as they too take on the act pilgrimage to say those words taught to us by Jesus:

 “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

**Slide 22:**

**Prayers of Intercession.**

Loving and eternal God,

We thank you for the lives of the armed forces, past and present, who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

We thank you that they were motivated to make this world a better place.

We pray for those who have been affected by terror;

For those who have been killed, for survivors, and for their friends and family.

May your loving presence be with them as they try to rebuild their worlds.

We pray for military personnel who have returned to civilian life

May you be with them as they adjust to life back at home.

Be with those who have been traumatised by conflict, those who are homeless, and those who have not resettled well.

Teach us as a country to value and care for our armed forces.

Father God, as we might consider how we can meet the challenges that face this world

May your Spirit be with us.

Call us to follow your Son, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Help us to recognise your voice - even if it is for the first time.

Thank you that you call all of us to make heaven on earth.

We pray for those who suffer from increased anxiety because of the challenges the world faces.

Lord Jesus Christ, may they find comfort in you.

We ask this in Jesus’ name

Amen.

**Slide 23-24**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Please join with me in the Lord’s Prayer.

**Hymn: Be Thou My Vision.**

**Slide 25:**

**Benediction**

Merciful God,

Calm the fears of our hearts

Fill us with your perfect love

And give us hope to make a future

Living lives of justice, courage and mercy

Through Jesus Christ

amen.

Go in peace

To love and serve the Lord.

*Banners Leave.*