

## **Sunday Worship on November 9, 2025**

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Anne Neuman)

### **An Act of remembrance**

- BOP 833 O Canada O Canada
- Laying of the Wreath
- The Last Post
- Minute of Silence & Reveille
- BOP 834 God save our gracious King

### **We Gather**

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 425 We praise you, O God
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song Jesus loves the little children
- Prayer for children

### **We listen**

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Psalm 149 (Refrain 2)
- Second reading: Haggai 2:1-9
- Sermon: **For I am with you**
- Praise song BOP 630 When we are living
- Prayer for the people

### **We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 321 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty vs.1) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 474 The love of God comes close

### **We Serve**

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

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### **Responsive Call to Worship**

On this day of memories, we gather to sing and to pray;

**we remember the past and look to the future.**

On this day when the guns and cannons fell silent,

**we come before you, God, seeking your peace.**

On this day of hope in the face of terror,

**we come before you, God, believing in your promise.**

Let us worship God together, in peace.

**Praise song – BOP 425 We praise you, O God**

### **Prayer of Adoration**

God, our Creator and Redeemer, we gather in your presence at this solemn time, aware of how much war has cost the world you love.

In spite of fighting between nations and neighbours, you have come to us in Jesus Christ, carrying no sword, calling us to serve as peace makers. In this time of worship, renew in us the hope that you will turn our swords into ploughshares, and lead the world from the study of war to the promise of peace with justice for all your peoples.

### **Prayer of confession (Unison)**

**God of mercy, we confess that the world around us is in a mess.**

**Countries turn arguments over territory into threats of terror.**

**Old enemies stir up conflict within their tribes and nations.**

**The threat of violence keeps us all on edge.**

**Forgive us for not learning from past conflicts what leads to peace with justice.**

**Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us:** (The Lord's Prayer:)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

The prophet Micah reminds us that God requires of us three things: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

To all who turn away from hostility and seek reconciliation in kindness and humility, God offers forgiveness and peace.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

### **Praise song – Jesus loves the little children**

#### **Prayer for the children**

#### **Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)**

- First reading: Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 (Refrain 1)
- Second reading: Haggai 2:1-9

**“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”**

#### **Sermon: For I am with you**

Today, we gather with solemn hearts and grateful spirits.

We remember those who gave their lives in war – men and women who left homes, families, and futures so that others might live in peace.

Their sacrifice reminds us of high cost of freedom and the sacredness of peace.

But as we remember, we also look around our world today. Wars continue. In Ukraine, in the Middle East, and in other places of the world. We see the suffering of civilians, the cries of children, and the endless cycle of violence.

And we may ask quietly in our hearts, **“Where is God in all this?”**

Can peace truly come again? Haggai’s message speaks into that very question. So, sisters and brothers in Christ, **“Take courage, work for the Lord, for God is with us.”**

When Haggai spoke these words, the people were discouraged.

**V3, “Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing?”**

The temple they were rebuilding looked small and unimpressive compared to the glorious temple of Solomon. Some of the older ones even wept when they saw it, remembering how things used to be.

That’s how many veterans and families might feel when they remember the past. The world they fought for doesn’t always look like the world we have today. We see division, greed, and hatred, and wonder if their sacrifice was in vain.

But God saw their discouragement and said, **V4, “Take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, say the Lord of hosts.”**

The same God speaks today. To every weary heart, to every broken land, to every church that wonders if it’s making a difference.

**“Be strong, work, for I am with you!”**

Notice what God doesn’t say. He doesn’t say, “Be strong because you are powerful,” or “Be strong because you have a plan.” Instead, he says, **“BE STRONG, FOR I AM WITH YOU.”** **That’s the foundation of faith – not our ability, but God’s presence.**

When soldiers marched through the trenches, many carried small Bibles in their pockets. When nurses tended to the wounded, they prayed for strength that only God could give. What sustained them was not the absence of fear, but the presence of God.

And that same promise is given to us. In every season of rebuilding, in every moment of grief, in every uncertain future, God is with us.

God also reminds his people in **V5, “My spirit abides among you; do not fear.”**

This is a covenant language. “My spirit remains among you.”

It is as if God is saying, “I haven’t left you. I am still the same God who brought you out of Egypt.”

Remembrance Day calls us to remember not only human faithfulness, but divine faithfulness. Nations rise and fall. Empires come and go. But the Spirit of God remains.

Christ is the ultimate sign of that covenant faithfulness. When we look at the cross, we see the cost of peace. Not political peace, but peace with God. Jesus entered the battlefield of sin and death and conquered it with his own blood. **John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”**

Be strong because our God is with us always.

The people in Haggai’s time couldn’t imagine that the new temple would ever surpass Solomon’s because it was so small and so plain. But, this is the promise of God. **V9, “The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts;”**

“The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former.”

How? Because one day, Christ himself would enter that temple. The presence of the living Son of God would make it glorious than any gold or silver could ever do.

That’s how God works. He takes what looks small and broken and fills it with his glory. He takes a weary church, a discouraged nation, a grieving heart and says, **“I am with you. Take courage. Be strong.”**

On this Remembrance Day, we find that we are standing **between memory and mission.** We remember the past with gratitude, but we also live for the future with hope. To honour those who died in wars is not only to remember their courage and sacrifice, but it is to live out the peace they longed for.

And as followers of Christ, our mission is clear. **It is to be peacemakers in a world of conflict, to embody hope where despair reigns, and to bear witness that God’s love is stronger than death.**

When we say, “Lest we forget,” we remember not only the fallen, but also the God who never forgets his people.

So, today, as we lay wreaths and bow our heads in silence, let us hear again the timeless promise of God.

**“Take courage, be strong, work, for I am with you.”**

God is with the grieving mother, with the lonely veteran, with the refugee running from war, and with the church seeking to be faithful in a divided world.

In Christ, the Prince of Peace, God’s presence has come near, and one day, his glory will fill the whole earth.

Until that day, we remember, we rebuild, and we believe.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

**Praise song 630 When we are living**

**Prayer for the people:**

Eternal and faithful God, on this Remembrance Sunday, we pause in gratitude and awe. We remember those who gave their lives in war. Men and women who walked into danger so that others might live in freedom. Their courage humbles us, their sacrifice moves us, and their memory calls us to live as people of peace.

Yet, Lord, even as we remember the past, our hearts ache for the present world. We think of those suffering in the wars that rage today. In Ukraine, In Israel and Gaza, in Sudan and countless unnoticed places. We pray for the children who sleep in fear, we pray for parents searching for safety, we pray for soldiers and civilians caught in violence they never chose. Have mercy, Lord. Let your peace come where peace feels impossible.

We pray for leaders of nations. Help them to seek justice, act with compassion, and have the courage to turn away from pride and vengeance. We pray for refugees and the displaced, for those grieving the loss of homes, loved ones, and dreams. O Lord, you are their refuge and their dwelling place.

We lift up those within our own nation and community who bear the hidden wounds of war. Veterans who carry memories too heavy to speak, families still missing the ones who never came home, and all who struggle with loneliness, trauma, or despair. Surround them with your healing presence. Let them feel your nearness and your peace.

Gracious God, we also remember those suffering from other storms of our time: poverty, injustice, climate disasters, division, and fear. Teach your children to stand with the

hurting and to speak truth with love. Help us to be peacemakers in our homes, in our communities, in our city, and in our world.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Prince of Peace, and through your cross, you have reconciled heaven and earth. By your Holy Spirit, make us strong to work and to hope, to build what is broken, to comfort those who mourn, and to trust that you are with us, now and always.

We pray, until that day when swords are beaten in plowshares, and your glory fills the earth as the waters cover the sea.

We pray all this in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Redeemer, and our Peace. Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:**

On Remembrance Day, we will mark the costly offering of life for the sake of others. What we offer today is just a small gift, something that does not cost us so much. But we can also offer ourselves to make a difference for the sake of others in Christ's name. Reflect on what this means for us as we offerings are received. As we give our offerings, let us glorify God. (*BOP #321, Praise to the Lord, the Almighty. Vs. 1*)

**Offering prayer:**

God of justice and generosity, when we consider that Christ gave his very life for our sakes, we are humbled to offer our gifts. We are also humbled by the memory of those who gave up their youth, their families, and their very lives in conflict so that justice and truth would prevail. Bless our small gifts with the possibilities your Holy Spirit can create, so that justice and truth continue to prevail in the world you love, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Song for the Journey – BOP 474 The love of God comes close**

Now, it is our time to be sent to the world where God called us to be.

As we prepare to go into the world, let us remember the promise that carried God's people through every trial. "Take courage, be strong, for I am with you."

The God who stood beside the builders of the temple, the God who comforted a weary nation, is the same God who walks beside us today. In a world still marked by conflict and fear, we are called to live as people of peace and courage. So, let us go and carry the light of Christ into dark places, speaking hope where there is despair, and serving others with the strength that comes from God's presence. And as we go, may you know deep within your heart that you are never alone. God is with you now and always.

**Benediction:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, our Father, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and always. Amen.