# Remembrance Sunday 2019

*Written in collaboration by United Church of Canada military chaplains Captain (Rev.) Audrey Brown and Captain (Rev.) Tyler Powell*

## Suggested Scripture Readings

Hebrew scripture: Micah 4:1‒5

Epistle: Romans 8:31–39

Gospel: John 15:9–17

## To Ponder

What does it mean to remember someone? It means to bring them here with us—to re-member them, so that time and space have no meaning. Death itself is overcome. This is the purpose of remembrance in Canada: to affirm the lives lost in war and bring them here with us as we worship in freedom and peace. We should never take for granted the freedom we have to celebrate our diversity in Canada.

## Spark

Shine a light or light a single candle (battery-operated tealights would do here) on a focal point in your sanctuary, maybe on a poppy or flowers or, if you have them, the memorial plaques that are often overlooked but when they were put up represented all the grief of our communities and the shared losses. Take a few moments this week to really look at them and feel that combined grief known by previous generations in your congregation and community.

This simulates an amazing thing that happens by design in Canada. On November 11, at exactly 11 a.m. (weather permitting), a beam of sunlight shines through a single window into the Canadian War Museum’s Memorial Hall to perfectly frame the headstone from the grave of Canada’s Unknown Soldier. You can see a picture at [www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/remember/remembranceday\_e.html](https://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/remember/remembranceday_e.html).

## Suggested Hymns

“Make Me a Channel of Your Oeace,” *Voices United* 684

“This Is God’s Wondrous World,” VU 296

“We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection,” VU 586

“He Came Singing Love,” VU 359

“For the Healing of the Nations,” VU 678

“Let There Be Light,” VU 679

“O Canada,” VU 524 (please note the VU words are outdated—see [www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/anthems-canada.html#a1](https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/anthems-canada.html#a1))

“My Soul Cries Out,” *More Voices* 120

## Sermon Starter

Consider using the story of Rev. Harold Appleyard from Christ Church Anglican in Meaford, Ontario, to talk about how we process the destruction of war and what we choose to do about it. The Rev. Appleyard is an example of taking the destruction of war and turning it into a thing of beauty. His actions could be considered part of his own spiritual resiliency.

The Rev. Appleyard served as a military chaplain during the Second World War. He joined the Grey and Simcoe Foresters in 1941 as their unit chaplain. Almost as soon as he landed, the destruction in England struck him as appalling. He quickly began to collect shards of stained glass from the shattered windows of damaged churches and began to envision using them for a memorial window at his parish church. On volunteer fire duty one night in the dome of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, he met an architect responsible for London’s ancient churches, who referred him to the Cox and Barnard Stained Glass Works in Hove, Sussex. The firm offered to design and re-lead the glass into windows to fit Appleyard’s Meaford church—free of charge in gratitude for the Canadian war effort.

The Rev. Appleyard retrieved glass from churches in France, Belgium, and Holland, and a year after the war ended, the church unveiled the windows as memorials to the parishioners and townspeople who had been killed or wounded during the years of fighting.

Source: [www.meafordhaven.ca/2012/02/25/meaford-church-windows-restore-beauty-from-the-rubble-of-war/](http://www.meafordhaven.ca/2012/02/25/meaford-church-windows-restore-beauty-from-the-rubble-of-war/)

For more about the windows and to see photos of them go to: [www.meaford.com/town/church\_anglican.htm](https://www.meaford.com/town/church_anglican.htm).

# The Liturgy

*Please adapt this liturgy as necessary to your local context and setting.*

## Gathering

### Welcome and Introduction

One: It is my privilege to welcome you to United Church and to this special service of remembrance. It is Remembrance Day once again, and we will as a nation acknowledge the sacrifice of the people of the Armed Forces throughout history. However, as a community of faith today, we will be taking some time to reflect on the sacrifices of Canadians throughout the ages. Members of The United Church of Canada have served in every major conflict since the church’s formation in 1925 and still do today. And so it is appropriate for us to affirm the lives lost in war and bring them to mind here with us as we worship in freedom and peace.

### Call to Worship

One: On this Remembrance Sunday we gather to pray

**All: for a world where no one will learn war anymore.**

One: On this day when the guns once fell silent,

**All: we gather to pray for peace to reign in every heart, home and nation.**

One: On this day of hope,

**All: we come before you, God,   
to remember all those who gave their lives so we could be free.**

One: In this time of story, song, and prayer,   
help us to catch a vision of how the world could live together.

**All: And so, let echo the old prayers—make us channels of your peace.**

One: In that spirit, let us join our hearts in song.

### Hymn

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace,” VU 684

### Opening Prayer

One: Almighty God,

**All: Grant that we who gather here today  
may pay fitting tribute and honour  
to the memory of those who have died  
in the service of their country.**

One: May we be so inspired by the spirit of their love and courage  
that, forgetting all selfish and unworthy motives,

**All: we may live only to your glory and to the service of your people.  
May we who desire peace be willing to work for justice.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Prayer of Confession

One: Almighty God,  
We thank you for bringing us together this Remembrance Sunday  
to recall with tenderness and respect  
those who lost their lives from this community  
and the many thousands farther afield in the wars  
of the last century.

**All: We pray for all those still caught up in conflicts across the world  
and acknowledge what may be our own confusion about war  
and how we might participate in creating an enduring peace.**

One: Help us to meet with you in these moments of worship,  
Make us ever mindful of your goodness toward us,  
and strengthen us to be aware of the needs of others.  
As we pray for peace, may it start with peace in our hearts.

### Time of Silent Prayer and Reflection

### Words of Assurance

One: Almighty and eternal God,   
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life,

**All: Hear our prayers for all this day, and help us to live in love and service. Amen.**

### Children’s Time

*Adapt to your congregation. You can listen to the king’s speech at the Dedication of the Canadian National War Memorial in Ottawa for background ahead of time:* [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5M5lSE3J2s*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5M5lSE3J2s)*.*

Hold up a poppy and ask if anyone recognizes the symbol and knows why we wear it. (There are no wrong answers here. Children will know this from school, and adults have their own reasons for wearing a poppy.) Ask if anyone has ever lost a poppy. Losing a poppy reminds us how easy it is to forget that freedom and peace are not things that just happen. King George VI said, “Peace and freedom cannot long be separated. Without freedom there can be no enduring peace, and without peace no enduring freedom.”

## A Time of Remembrance

### Hymn

“O Canada,” VU 524

*Please note the words in the hymnbook are outdated. For the revised wording, please see* [www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/anthems-canada.html#a1](https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/anthems-canada.html#a1).

### In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

### Words of Remembrance

One: They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old.

**All: Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.**

One: At the going down of the sun and in the morning.

**All: We will remember them.**

### Last Post

### Minute of Silence

### Rouse

### Words of Remembrance

One: Eternal rest grant unto them, O God,   
and may perpetual light shine upon them.

**All: May the souls of the righteous, through your great mercy,   
rest in peace. Amen.**

## Hearing the Word

### 1st Scripture Reading

Micah 4:1-5

### 2nd Scripture Reading

Romans 8:31–39

### Special Music

### Gospel Reading

John 15:9‒17

### Sermon

### Hymn

“For the Healing of the Nations,” VU 678

## Our Response

### Invitation to the Offering

One: There are opportunities to give every day, certainly through gifts of dollars and cents, but also through courageous action, faithful service, and loving devotion. Let us share of ourselves and of what God has so graciously given.

### Offering Prayer

One: Gracious God, bless these gifts and these givers. May they be used well to foster peace and joy in this world and in the lives of those who cross our paths.

**All: May real and lasting change start now, with us, through us, and with God’s blessing. Amen.**

### Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

## Going Forth

### Sending Hymn

“This Is God’s Wondrous World,” VU 296

### Benediction

One: Having gathered, remembered, heard, given, and prayed,

**All: we ask, Almighty God, for your blessing,  
and for your continual presence in our lives.**

One: Remind us that no matter where we go, you are there.

**All: No matter how bleak the world becomes, all it takes is one ray of light for a new day to be upon us once again. Amen.**