# Remembrance Sunday 2021

*Contributed by Capt (Rev.) Nathan Wright—Chaplain, The Royal New Brunswick Regiment (Fredericton, NB)*

### Gathering Music

### Welcome

Welcome, everyone, to this service of remembrance. We have gathered here with gratitude to recognize the sacrifices of our Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP members who have offered themselves in service to our country. Through world wars and regional conflicts, at home and abroad, they have demonstrated courage, loyalty, integrity, and service to Canada before self. The freedoms we enjoy today would not be possible without them. And so, on this Sunday before the 11th day of the 11th month, we remember them.

### Candle Lighting

Jesus said (Matthew 18:20): “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” We light this candle as a reminder that we are not alone. May its flame warm our hearts and inspire us to live the message of the gospel.

### Call to Worship

One: From east and west, north and south, we gather on this day of remembrance to give thanks and praise.

**All: We come to be inspired by the Word of God and honour the sacrifices of those who have committed themselves to service before self.**

One: In times of peace, in times of conflict, and in times of uncertainty,

**All: We remember that we are not alone.**

One: We are the people of God, connected across time and space, from generation to generation.

**All: We are united by the love of the One who said: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”**

One: As we gather to remember, let us sing and pray.

**All: Let us worship God together!**

### Opening Prayer

Let us pray…God of our past, present, and future, we have come to this place as a people of hope. We hope for a future without war and a world that lives together in peace. In years past, and in the present day, members of our armed forces have put their lives at risk for this hope, with some paying the ultimate cost. May what we do here today strengthen our resolve to work together so that this hope may be fulfilled. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

### Hymn

**“**O God, Our Help in Ages Past,” VU 806

### Responsive Reading: Micah 4:3

“[God] shall judge between many peoples,

and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,

and their spears into pruning-hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more.”

### Prayer of Confession

Holy One, when our lives are comfortable and we live in relative safety, it can be all too easy to forget that what we enjoy today has come at a great cost. For some, the price was their last breath. For others, it was wounds to body, mind, or spirit. Our inability to resolve conflicts through peaceable means has caused harm beyond measure.

Forgive us for using violence as a way to resolve our differences.

On days like this, we remember those who defend our freedoms and we say “Lest we forget.” Yet, too often we forget that the wounds to mind and spirit can last a lifetime.

Forgive us for not remembering once the poppies have been put away.

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers,” but we have often focused on what divides us rather than on what can bring us together.

Forgive us for our reluctance to do the hard work of peacemaking.

For all these things, and for those which we name before you now in the silence of our hearts, forgive us…

### Time of Silent Prayer and Reflection

### Words of Assurance

Jesus said (*John 3:17*): “God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” Receive the Good News: in Christ, you are forgiven! Our loving God desires that all people, indeed the whole world, be restored to right relationship with God and one another, so that we might live together in peace.

### Children’s Time

One possibility for the children’s time is to explore the relationship between Canadian military values and Christian faith. These values teach about the importance of moral factors in military operations and the qualities that military professionals are expected to possess. They are: duty, loyalty, integrity, and courage. However, these four values can also reflect how we are called by Jesus to live out our faith. Connect each of these values to an example of how they might be important to people of faith.

*(Go to this website for more details about the four values:* [*https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/duty-with-honour-2009/chapter-2-statement-of-canadian-military-ethos/section-4-canadian-military-values.html*](https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/duty-with-honour-2009/chapter-2-statement-of-canadian-military-ethos/section-4-canadian-military-values.html)*)*

## Act 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 (by LCol John McCrae)

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.**

### Reading of the Honour Roll

(A list of members and adherents of the community of faith who have served/are serving in the Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP.)

### Last Post

### Minute of Silence

### Rouse

### Responsive Prayer

Eternal rest grant to them, O God, and may perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls, through your great mercy, rest in peace. Amen.

### Hymn

“Weep for the Dead,” VU 526

### 1st Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

### 2nd Scripture Reading

Ephesians 6: 10-18, 23-24

### Special Music

### Gospel Reading

Luke 7:1-10

### Sermon

### Hymn

“God! As with Silent Hearts,” VU 527

### Invitation to Giving

Each day of our lives we are presented with opportunities to respond to God’s love and give of ourselves in faithful service. There are many ways to give, each according to our own abilities, with all gifts working together for the sake of the mission and ministry entrusted to us by God. You are now invited to give, as you are able, to support the work of this community of faith.

### Offering Prayer

God of abundance, we thank you for the gifts that we present to you now. We ask that you receive them and bless them. May they enable us to serve the world in ways that inspire hope and make your love known. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

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

Holy One, we come before you now with praise and thanksgiving, as well as sorrow and concern, in our hearts. With gratitude on this Remembrance Sunday, we call to mind the soldiers, sailors, air personnel, and RCMP who have paid the ultimate price that we might live in freedom. We remember those who died in distant wars and those more recent. By sacrificing their lives, they left us the responsibility and the duty to continue their work on the things that make for peace. From generation to generation, may their valour and selflessness never be forgotten.

We are especially mindful today of the effects of military life on the body, mind, and spirit. Give courage, comfort, and healing to all those who suffer wounds, both visible and invisible. Help us to remember that the effects of conflict reach far beyond the battlefield and can last a lifetime. Enable us to provide the support our service members need to live happy and healthy lives. May our commitment to them be as full and complete as their commitment to serve Canada before self.

Lest we forget, the families and friends of our service members share in the burdens of military life. Bring comfort and strength to the relatives and friends of those who serve. When they are grieving the loss of their loved ones, may they know your compassionate and comforting presence. When they are separated from one another due to deployments or other operational requirements, may their bonds be strengthened. When their lives are uprooted because they are posted to a new location and everything is new all over again, may they be upheld by the constancy of your steadfast love. Accompany them in their daily joys and protect them in difficulties.

May our act of remembrance this day honour those who have put themselves in harm’s way for the safety of others. May we never forget their sacrifice, the families who grieve for them and support them, and their example of integrity, loyalty, courage, and duty.

As people of faith, we re-commit ourselves to work together for peace in our world. May the hope that we carry in our hearts lead us to seek new and creative ways to resolve our differences. We look forward to that day when your reign is fully realized among us and swords are turned into plowshares and nation no longer lifts up sword against nation.

We also long for the moment when mourning, suffering, and sickness are no more. Until that day comes, we ask that you respond to us when we lift before you in the silence of our hearts the names of those people, places, and situations that are in need of your tender loving care this day…(*moment of silent prayer*)…Restore them to health and wholeness, O God.

We ask all these things in the name of the One who came to show us your ways and who taught us to pray together, saying: **[Lord’s Prayer]**

Commissioning and Benediction

(*Based on Ephesians 6*)

Remember the sacrifices of those who have gone before us.
Take up the whole armour of God and remain steadfast.
Fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.
Put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.
May the grace of God, the love of Christ, and the hope of the Spirit be with you now and always. Amen.

### Sung Benediction

“For the Faithful Who Have Answered,” VU 707