

**ST MARK'S CHURCH  
PARISH OF ARMAGH**



**A SERVICE TO COMMEMORATE  
THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME  
1ST JULY - 18TH NOVEMBER 1916**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29TH 2016  
7.30PM**



## **Processional Hymn 346**

Angel voices, ever singing  
round thy throne of light;  
angel harps, for ever ringing,  
rest not day nor night;  
thousands only live to bless thee,  
and confess thee,  
Lord of might.

Yes, we know that thou rejoicest  
o'er each work of thine;  
thou didst ears and hands and voices  
for thy praise design;  
craftsmen's art and music's measure  
for thy pleasure  
all combine.

In thy house, great God, we offer  
of thine own to thee;  
and for thine acceptance proffer,  
all unworthily,  
hearts and minds, and hands and voices,  
in our choicest  
psalmody.

Honour, glory, might, and merit,  
thine shall ever be,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
blessed Trinity.  
Of the best that thou hast given,  
earth and heaven  
render thee.

## **Welcome**

*Rev'd Malcolm Kingston*

## **Greeting**

We meet in the presence of God who knows our needs, hears our cries, feels our pain, and heals our wounds.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

God is our refuge and strength;  
a very present help in trouble.

*Psalm 46v1*

## **Bidding Prayer**

Almighty God, you call us into a common fellowship of solidarity and love; draw near to us as we commemorate those who died in the Battle of the Somme. As we reflect on their sacrifice and the horrors of conflict, may you move us to always work for peace and justice in our broken world; this we ask through the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## **Penitence**

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Lord God,  
you sent your Son to reconcile us to yourself and to one another.

Lord, have mercy,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you heal the wounds of sin and division.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit,  
through you we put to death the sins of the body - and live.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

### **A Soldier's Prayer**

*read by Ms Barbara Wilson*

### **Act of Commemoration**

*Everyone is invited to turn towards the First World War Memorial on the South Wall of the Church.*

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

**We will remember them.**

*Silence*

*The names of men from the City of Armagh who died at the Somme will be read aloud.*

*A wreath will be laid at the Great War Memorial*

### **Anthem : 'For the fallen'**

*sung by St Mark's Church Choir*

## **Ministry of the Word**

1 Samuel 18:1-6 (p290)

*read by Rev'd Peter McAnenly*

John 15v12-17 (p1083)

*read by Rev'd Rowan Zeelie*

## **Hymn 349**

Fill thou my life, O Lord my God,  
in every part with praise,  
that my whole being may proclaim  
thy being and thy ways.

Not for the lip of praise alone  
nor ev'n the praising heart  
I ask, but for a life made up  
of praise in every part:

praise in the common things of life,  
its goings out and in;  
praise in each duty and each deed,  
however small and mean.

Fill every part of me with praise:  
let all my being speak  
of thee and of thy love, O Lord,  
poor though I be and weak.

So shall no part of day or night  
from sacredness be free;  
but all my life, in every step,  
be fellowship with thee.

## **Sermon**

*Right Rev'd John McDowell, Bishop of Clogher*

**Anthem : ‘God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind’**  
*sung by St Mark’s Church Choir*

**Prayers of Intercession**

*led by Very Rev’d Robert Townley*

Lord of eternity, you knit together your elect in the Communion of all your saints; we remember with gratitude the fallen of the First World War at the Battle of the Somme and of conflicts since.

We thank you for the promise in your word, that even death cannot separate us from your love found in Christ Jesus.

Grant that we may live lives worthy of this truth as we recall those who laid down their lives for the benefit of others.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord of compassion, we give thanks for the women and men who risked their lives for the sake of others during the First World War at the Battle of Somme.

Grant your blessing to those who serve in the theatre of war today, whether in combat, in logistical support or medical care.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Most holy God and Father, hear our prayers for all who strive for peace and all who fight for justice. Help us, who today remember the cost of war, to work for a better tomorrow; and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict, bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gathering all our prayers and praise into one, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray :  
**Our Father, who art in heaven .....**

### **The Peace**

*(Please stand)*

Jesus said: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.' (*John 14v27*)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please greet one another as a sign of peace*

### **Hymn 509**

Your kingdom come, O God;  
your rule, O Christ, begin;  
break with the iron rod  
the tyrannies of sin.

Where is your reign of peace  
and purity and love?  
When shall all hatred cease  
as in the realms above?

When comes the promised time,  
the end of strife and war;  
when lust, oppression, crime  
and greed shall be no more?

O Lord our God, arise  
and come in your great might!  
Revive our longing eyes  
which languish for your sight.



On lands both near and far  
thick darkness gathers yet:  
arise, O Morning Star,  
arise and never set!

### **Going out as God's people**

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?

**We will.**

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

**We will.**

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?

**We will.**

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love:

May we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people, and live lives of justice, courage and mercy; through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer. **Amen.**

### **The National Anthem**

#### **The Blessing**

*Most Rev'd Dr. Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh*

God grant to the living, grace, to the departed, rest, to the Church and to the nations, peace and concord;  
and the blessing .....

### **Recessional Hymn 366**

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to his people in distress;  
praise him, still the same for ever,  
slow to chide and swift to bless:  
Praise him! Praise him,  
glorious in his faithfulness.

Father - like, he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise him! Praise him,  
widely as his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

*A retiring collection will be received in aid of the  
Co. Armagh Memorial Wall*





On the first day of the Battle of the Somme, the 5,500 casualties of the 36th Ulster Division on 1 July 1916 were men drawn almost entirely from one community in Ulster. Nearly 2,000 soldiers from cities, towns, villages and townlands in Northern Ireland were killed in the first few hours of fighting.

In a continuation of the same battle, the 16th Irish Division had 4,330 casualties in September, of whom 1,200 were killed.

These came mainly from the other three provinces. In addition, many more Irish soldiers fought in other divisions of the regular army or in the newly-raised battalions. The total number of Irish casualties cannot be calculated with certainty but they affected every part of the island and continue to influence the evolution of Irish politics.

The Battle of the Somme is an important commemoration in Northern Ireland, yet in both campaigns men from both parts of the island and from both traditions fought side-by-side, suffered together, and sustained, encouraged and cared for each other.