

Knox Presbyterian Church
Rev. Emma Duncan
November 9, 2025

Remembrance Day



Greetings

Call to Worship

Leader: On this day of remembrance, we gather to sing and to pray

People: We remember the past and look to the future

Leader: In this time of story, song, and prayer

People: May we be recommitted to being people of peace

All: Let there be Peace on Earth and let it begin with us! Amen.

Music: Holy, holy, holy (#299, verses 1, 3, 4)

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God of yesterday, today and forever, you are our strength and our might. You formed the vastness and complexity of the universe. You created each one of us in your image. In the fullness of time, you have given us your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who sits on high with you. As we offer you our worship today, let us feel your presence among us.

O exalted Lord, our rejoicing is tainted by our need for forgiveness. So often we fail to worship and serve you in with integrity and sincerity. We confess that we are short-sighted, caring more about winning for ourselves than we do for future generations. Because of our selfishness and vanity, we have harmed the planet and perpetuated division between peoples. The legacy we are leaving to future generations is one of economic uncertainty, global insecurity, and social inequality when we could be leaving a world filled with your compassion and justice.

O Lord, in your mercy, hear our cries for forgiveness. Be gracious to us and turn our hearts towards your healing power. Turn our eyes towards new life. Let your steadfast love come to us, O God of our salvation.

Thank you for the grace that we have received through Christ Jesus. Through your Spirit, give us understanding and lead us in the path of your commandments. Train us in godliness so that we may run our race willingly and obediently.

We pray in the blessed name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray, saying...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

In the Gospel of John, it is recorded that our Lord, Jesus Christ, said these profound words - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and be not afraid. (John 14:27-28) Beloved in the Lord, through God's mercy, our sin is forgiven. May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Announcements

1. Welcome!
2. Join us for a time of fellowship and conversation after worship in the **Bell Tower Room**.
3. Thank you to everyone who is participating in the service today. A special welcome to Jeff Redford who will be playing the bagpipes.
4. **"The Elves Emporium." Saturday November 15th**
is our **BIGGEST** fundraiser. Tell your family, friends and neighbours! You will find a variety of Christmas items, gift baskets, treats, and preserves. Volunteers are needed for clean up on Saturday after the event (1:15pm). **Volunteers, please arrive at 8:15am and park on the street or the lot across from church.** Speak with Deb Settle, Dawn Flood, Catharine Davidson or Janet MacIntyre for more information.
The Pantry Shelf is looking for preserves, jams, loaves, cookies, shortbread, muffins, tarts, squares, pies, candy, gluten free items and items packaged as hostess gifts. **Pantry Shelf goods can be dropped off Friday November 14th to the Edrie Elder Room 9am-12pm or 2pm-5:30pm.** Your donations are greatly appreciated.
We are taking apple pie pre-orders, \$20 each. Proceeds are for the Pantry Shelf at the Elves Emporium. Please contact Kathy Kelly in the church office or Janet MacIntyre.
5. Please join us for our **Annual General Meeting Sunday November 23rd** after Worship Service. We'd love to see you there. The Annual Report is now available. Thank you to Kathy Kelly for all of her work putting the report together!
6. **Santa Clause Parade – Volunteers needed**
Sunday December 7th in the afternoon (approx. 1:30-4:00 p.m.) Volunteers need to set-up and serve hot chocolate to the community during the parade. If you are available, please contact the church office.

Music: Make me a channel of your peace (#740, all verses)

Children's Time: Keep on running

Service of Remembrance

National Anthem - O Canada

Laying of Wreaths

Poem: "In Flanders Fields"

Roll of Honour

One Minute of Silence

Highland Cathedral

Royal Anthem - God Save the King

The children

Richard Duncan

Brenda MacMillan

Jeff Redford

Prayer of Illumination

Let us pray. Holy Spirit, we yearn for your presence today. As the Word of God is proclaimed in this time and in this place, give us wisdom to be ambassadors of peace in our broken world. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.

Our first Old Testament reading is taken from the Book of Psalms and we will be reading Responsively Psalm 119, verses 25-41

Leader: My soul clings to the dust;

People: revive me according to your word.

Leader: When I told of my ways, you answered me; teach me your statutes.

Make me understand the way of your precepts,
and I will meditate on your wondrous works.

People: My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.

Leader: Put false ways far from me, and graciously teach me your law.

People: I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your ordinances before me.

I cling to your decrees, O Lord; let me not be put to shame.

I run the way of your commandments, for you enlarge my understanding.

Leader: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

People: Give me understanding, that I may keep your law

and observe it with my whole heart.

Leader: Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

People: Turn my heart to your decrees and not to selfish gain.

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways.

Leader: Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.

Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.

People: See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness be gracious to me.

All: Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD,

your salvation according to your promise.

Amen.

Our second Old Testament reading is taken from the Book of Isaiah and we will be reading chapter 40, verses 28-31.

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted,
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;

they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Our New Testament reading is taken from the Apostle Paul's first letter to Timothy and we will be reading chapter 4, verses 6-16.

If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with profane and foolish tales. Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and suffer reproach, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

**This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Reflection: Heroes of the Faith – Eric Liddell

I feel like a broken record when I say that Remembrance Day is a challenge for me. Given that we have new people worshipping with us, I feel compelled to explain why. This is not because I don't honour the sacrifices made by soldiers to protect our liberty and freedom – because I do. Many men and women have paid a great price to protect us and I am profoundly grateful for their sacrifices. My feelings about Remembrance Day are complicated because of my family history. As a first generation Canadian with Scottish and German roots, I have family members on both sides who fought in the Second World War. My German grandfather worked in a munitions factory inspecting tanks. My German great-uncle was in the Abwehr and became a prisoner of war in England. My Scottish grandfather served with the Allied forces in Italy, Africa, and India. My Scottish great-uncle also served with the Allies and he was captured by the Japanese.

My family history is just one example of the reality that war is messy and complicated.

Which brings me to our next hero – Eric Liddell.

Liddell grew up in the shadow of the First World War and the Second World War affected his life in a profound way. But not as a soldier. Liddell never served in the military. He served as a soldier for the Lord.

Eric Liddell was born to Scottish missionaries in Tientsin, China on January 16, 1902. The turn of the century was a dangerous time to be a Christian missionary in China due to the ongoing conflicts between China and Japan. Despite these challenges, the Liddell family continued to serve the Lord in China. Eric was a quiet and shy boy who struggled with several illnesses as a child.

When Eric was 5 years old, the family travelled to Scotland on furlough and this was the first time when he saw his family's native land. The rolling hills and sparkling lochs

captivated this young boy. As was the custom for British missionaries, Eric and his brother were educated in Britain. It was during his education where it was discovered that Eric excelled at sports, including soccer, rugby, and track and field. In a 1918 competition, he placed first in 3 events – the long jump, the quarter mile, and the 100-yard dash. At that same competition, he placed second in 3 other events. Soon Liddell earned the nickname, the Flying Scotsman, which was well deserved.

The movie, *Chariots of Fire*, tells the story of his athletic journey to the Paris Olympics in 1924. There he famously refused to compete in any events that took place on Sunday, the Lord's Day. His decision to stick to his religious principals was quite controversial, even for his own team, because winning was all that mattered. For Eric, winning for the Lord mattered more than medals. And with the Lord's help, Eric did indeed win a gold medal in the 400-meter race.

After his amazing win at the Olympics, Liddell stunned the world by announcing that he was retiring as an athlete. God had something different planned for him – to go back to China. He left for China a year after the Paris Olympics and for the rest of his life, he would serve the Lord in complete obedience and faithfulness. He would boldly share the Good News of the Gospel. He would care for the sick and the wounded. In 1939, at the outbreak of WWII, Liddell sent his pregnant wife and their two small children to safety in Canada while he continued to minister to both the Chinese and Japanese. Sadly, he would never see his family again. He would never meet his youngest child. And that's because in 1943 - along with thousands of foreign nationals in China – Liddell was taken to a Japanese internment camp. In this camp – under very difficult conditions - he taught Sunday School classes, preached at services, and cared for the young people who were imprisoned without their families. He cared for these young people until his untimely death in 1945.

Many years later, his daughter, Patricia, reflected on her father's separation from his family. She said...

[those children] were put in the camp without their parents...[while] we were safe. He made a great influence and steadiness of their lives there. So in that sense, God's hand was there.¹

Eric Liddell was a great man of faith and there is no doubt that he is a hero of the Christian tradition. In the face of persecution, in the messiness of war, Liddell never abandoned his faith. With every fibre of his being, he believed what Isaiah said – [that the Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.](#) (Isaiah 40:28) He understood that his strength – on the sports field, in ministry, and in life – did not come from his own power. He knew that his power came from the Lord who helps us run and not be weary, who lifts us up so that we can walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31) At one of the memorial services held for him, his lifelong friend, A.P. Cullen, told the audience that “he was literally God controlled...in his thoughts, judgments, actions, words to an extent that I have never seen surpassed, and rarely seen equalled. Every morning he rose early to pray and read the Bible in silence: talking and listening to God, pondering the day ahead and often smiling as if at a private joke.”²

I have always been inspired by Liddell's life story and witness of faith. I remember watching Chariots of Fire and cheering when I heard that it won the Academy Award for Best Picture. I was 12 years old when the movie came out and a few years later, as a quiet and shy teenager myself, I discovered our passage from the Apostle Paul's first letter to Timothy. Verses 7 and 8 where Paul said - [Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.](#) These words spoke to my teenage self at a very deep

¹ Metaxas, Eric. *7 Men and 7 Women and the secret of their greatness.* Page 105.

² Ibid., page 105-106.

level and even though I have no athletic abilities, this passage has guided my faith all these years. This passage will be read at my funeral. In this passage, Paul is encouraging his young friend, Timothy, in his walk with the Lord, urging him to choose the way of faithfulness as we heard in Psalm 119. Paul tells Timothy that while it is important to take care of your physical body, it is more important to take care of your soul. Just as Liddell showed us, we are to nurture our faith – not with foolish tales, but with the divine Word of God. This spiritual training builds our hope in the living God, both in this life and the life to come. And when we put our faith into practice – in our speech, in our conduct, in faith and love – we will be able to nourish the faith of others, just as Eric Liddell did. Liddell’s life also reminds us that our faith should not diminish in times of war and strife. We are living in dangerous and uncertain times where war, violence, and conflict are all around us. The sound teachings of our faith encourage us – no matter what is going on in the world - to run the race with determination, perseverance, and hope. A hope that we are not alone when we set our focus upon Jesus Christ, the living God, who is the Saviour of all people.

Amen.

Dedication of our Tithes and Offerings

On Remembrance Day, we 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 that much. But when we can choose the way of faithfulness, we can offer ourselves to make a difference for the sake of others in Christ’s name.

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Song of Thanks – We give thee but thine own (#661, verse 1)

We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

Prayer of Dedication

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 Spirit can create, so that justice and truth continue to prevail in the world you love. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Loving God, in every generation you have been present with your people:
in times of poverty and prosperity,
in times of sorrow and joy,
in times of war and peace.

We come to you in thanksgiving as we remember all of the blessings that you have given us. They are too many to count. We praise you for people who love and care for us. We praise you for this great nation of ours. For the peace and prosperity that we take for granted in a world that is full of war, violence, disease, and poverty.

As we gather for this time of remembrance, we pray for peace in our world, in our communities, in our families, and in the Church. We remember especially those who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we might live in freedom and peace. We honour our veterans and pray for those soldiers who are afflicted, crushed, and driven to despair. We pray for those who have been separated from loved ones during war and conflict.

Grant them healing – body, mind, and spirit. We remember refugees, children, widows, prisoners of war, and all those who are persecuted in times of conflict.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer – come Lord Jesus and be a living presence in our world and in the Church. By your Spirit, strengthen all Christians to be ambassadors of peace and reconciliation.

Blessed Prince of Peace, so many in our world suffer today. So many have no hope for the future. So many do not know your peace. We lift up to you those who need your tender loving care...

Be with them, O Lord, and grant them your comfort and joy.

Lord, thank you so much for your faithfulness to us in the difficult times. Help each of us to run with perseverance the race that you set before us. Train us in godliness which holds promise for both the present life and the life to come. We trust that you will be with us to the end.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and glory are yours, our creator, redeemer, and friend.

Music: For the healing of the nations (#736, all verses)

Blessing (Hebrews 12:1b-2)

Sung Amen