

Liturgical resources for Anzac Day and related commemorations

Notes

1. *In Australia and New Zealand, the main day for commemorating the nation's war dead is Anzac Day, 25 April. This is in distinction to the UK's focus on 11th November (Remembrance Day), Canada's Memorial Day (1 July) the USA's Memorial Day (last Monday in May), and so on. The 25th of April 1915 was the day of the ANZAC troops' landing at Gallipoli. The first time the 25th of April was kept as a day of commemoration was in 1916. The Sunday nearest 11th November is designated "Defence Sunday" by the Bishop to the Defence Force who encourages parishes to pray for the ADF and its chaplains on that day.*
2. *Service planners should take into account the reality that, in most gatherings in multi-cultural Australia, descendants or survivors of all sides in any conflict are likely to be present. Overly nationalistic or sentimentalised words and actions should be avoided. "Commemoration" language is preferable to terminology of "celebration". Prayer for peace in today's world should always be included.*
3. *Consideration should be given to the place (space, location) of prayer. In churches where there is a Memorial Board or Honour Roll of the names of those who served, it may be appropriate to gather near such a memorial, or for leaders to pause beside it for the names to be read aloud in remembrance. Services may also be held outdoors, for example at a city or town war memorial, in which case it will be important to plan ecumenically with other Christian groups and perhaps in multi-faith conversation.*
4. *With the centenary in 2014 of the outbreak of the First World War, Anglican parishes, schools and caring agencies may wish to hold commemorative services of prayer. The liturgical resources provided by APBA are gathered together below for ease of reference. Additional resources are also suggested below, including:*
 - a) *A Preface for Peace to be used with Thanksgiving 1 of Holy Communion Second Order*
 - b) *A Litany of Remembrance*
 - c) *A Litany for Peace in our own day*
 - d) *A Prayer for Australian Defence Force chaplains*
 - e) *An outline for a Service of the Word commemorating those who served and those who died in WW1*
 - f) *Suggested hymnody*

Prayers from APBA

1. A prayer for peace (APBA p 202)

God of the nations,
whose sovereign rule brings justice and peace,
have mercy on our broken and divided world.
Shed abroad your peace in the hearts of all
and banish from them the spirit that makes for war,
that all races and peoples may learn to live
as members of one family
and in obedience to your law,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

2. A prayer for the defence and police forces

Eternal God, the only source of peace,
we pray for all who serve in the defence [and police] forces of this land.
Give them courage and comfort in danger,
patience in waiting,
and discipline in the just use of force.
Help us to seek for all people
the freedom to serve you and each other
in compassion and peace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

3. On Anzac Day (APBA p 204)

God of love and liberty,
we bring our thanks today for the peace and security we enjoy.
We remember those who in time of war
faithfully served their country.
We pray for their families,
and for ourselves whose freedom was won at such a cost.
Make us a people zealous for peace,
and hasten the day
when nations shall not lift up sword against nation
neither learn war any more.
This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life
for the sake of the world:
Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. **Amen.**

A prayer for those suffering abuse
(source: APBA p 209, adapted for survivors of wartime abuse)

Loving God,
whose Son was both victim and victor,
we cry to you for those who suffer
from the trauma of war service,
as prisoners of war,
or as civilian casualties of war.
Be with them in confusion and pain.
Heal the wounds of body and mind;
break open the prisons of fear, self-doubt and despair;
and strengthen them to face the future
with faith, hope and courage.
Reach out to them with your love,
that they may be made whole in body, mind and spirit,
through the healing touch of the suffering Christ. **Amen.**

4. Proper Collect and Readings for Anzac Day (APBA p 629)

Sentence

'No one has greater love than this, than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends,' says the Lord, 'if you do what I command you.' *John 14.13-14*

Prayer of the day

O God, our ruler and guide,
in whose hands are the destinies of this and every nation,
we give you thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this land
and for those who laid down their lives to defend them:
We pray that we and all the people of Australia,
gratefully remembering their courage and their sacrifice,
may have grace to live in a spirit of justice,
of generosity and of peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings

Micah 4.1-4 (They will beat their swords into ploughshares) *or*
2 Samuel 22.2-20 (David prays when the Lord delivered him from his enemies)

Psalm 46 (The Lord makes wars to cease in all the world - see also TiS 28. "God is our strength and refuge") *or*

Psalm 51.14-19 (The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit)

Hebrews 10.32-11.1 (You endured a hard struggle with sufferings) *or*

Romans 5.1-8 (Rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, but while we were still sinners Christ died for us.)

John 15.9-17 (No one has greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends) *or*
John 10.1-21 (Jesus the good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep)

Suggested hymnody

Numbers refer to Together in Song (HarperCollinsReligious)

10	The Lord's my shepherd
15	God is my strong salvation
28	God is our strength and refuge
47	Our God, our help in ages past
106	Now thank we all our God
123	Be still, my soul
138	Eternal Father, strong to save
256	From heaven you came, helpless babe
342	When I survey the wondrous cross
456	Your hand, O God, has guided
614	O God of love, whose heart is ever yearning
647	Comfort, comfort all my people
657	God of freedom, God of justice
680	God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind
690	Beauty for brokenness

Songs from other sources

- (i) "Lift high the cross" in Shirley Erena Murray's peace-focussed version - "Peace was your plea, and peace your loving theme / let peace be our passport, peace a living dream." See Alleluia Aotearoa (New Zealand Hymn Book Trust)
- (ii) "Honour the dead, our country's fighting brave" words by Shirley Erena Murray, music by Colin Gibson. This song can be heard on youtube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8EhR44SUp4 and words and music are available for purchase from the New Zealand Hymn Book Trust at www.hymns.org.nz. The text combines solemn remembrance with prayer for peace.

Additional resources prepared by the Liturgy Commission 2014

A Preface for Peace

for use with Great Thanksgiving 1 of Holy Communion Second Order (APBA p 128)

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
forgiving his killers,
and reconciling us to each other and to you.

He breathed the Holy Spirit on his disciples
and sent them out

to befriend with peace and justice
the people of every language, race and nation.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord....

A Litany of Remembrance

The Litany may be used in its entirety, or a selection may be made from among the petitions provided, or additional petitions on a similar pattern may be added.

God the Father,
have mercy on us.

God the Son,
have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God,
have mercy on us.

We remember all Australians and New Zealanders who served
in the army, navy and air force during the first World War.
Make us good stewards of the freedom they won.

God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember those of other nations who fought beside them,
and those who fought against them for their own countries.
Bring us all to the day when nation no longer makes war against nation.
God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the physically wounded and the shell-shocked.
Bring healing and peace for body, mind and spirit
to all who are scarred or disabled by war.
God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the nurses, ambulance officers,
orderlies and doctors who eased pain and saved lives.
Renew among us the vocation to heal the victims of violence.
God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the prisoners of war
and those who sheltered and sustained them.
Bless the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in war zones today.
God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the mothers, wives, sisters, children and sweethearts
who prayed and grieved for the missing and the lost.
Comfort all who mourn.
God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the homes, livelihoods and communities
destroyed by bombs and gunfire.
Have mercy on all who still live in the shadow of war.
God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the conscientious objectors and anti-war campaigners,
reviled or imprisoned for their principles.
Give respect and a hearing for those who ask difficult questions.
God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the chaplains who showed the love of Christ
when danger and death were all around.
Give us faith strong enough to share with the fearful and the dying.
God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember those interned and vilified here
for their birth or ancestry in countries with whom Australia was at war.
Save us from valuing national identity more highly than shared humanity.
God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander volunteers
who fought for a nation that did not recognise them as citizens.
Lead us towards true reconciliation with Australia's First Peoples.
God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the friendships formed in the turmoil of war
and the loyalty and love that comforted the injured and the dying.
Give us grace to be such friends to one another in times of crisis.
God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the peacemakers who prayed and worked
to end the violence and destruction of the First World War.
Raise up peacemakers in all the war zones of the world today.
God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the good neighbours, supporters and advocates
for returned service men and women, war widows and fatherless children.
Make us generous in providing for all the survivors of war.
God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember those who died in battle or from their wounds,
and those who took their own lives in agony or despair.
Bring them, in Christ, to resurrection life.
God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

[Where there is a commemorative plaque or monument:
We remember those whose names are written here,
who went from this community to serve or to die in World War One.
....The names may be read aloud....
As you were with them in all that they suffered,
bring them, with all the redeemed, to eternal life in Christ.
God of peace, **hear our prayer.]**

The Litany ends with the Lord's prayer (if it is not being said elsewhere in the service) or with the following prayer

O God, as we remember the terrible cost
of this and every war,
renew in us the longing for peace
and the will to work for it
in the strength of Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Litany for the Peace of the World

The Litany may be used in its entirety, or a selection may be made from among the petitions provided, or additional petitions on a similar pattern may be added.

On all who make war over national identity or territorial sovereignty,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all who make war over religious faith or spiritual identity,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all who make war over racial, tribal or ethnic differences,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all who make war for personal glory or political gain,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all who make war over access to water, food or fuel,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all who make war out of envy, greed or hunger for power,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all who make war in revenge for long-held grievances,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all who make war in response to recent offence or pain,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all who make war against their fellow citizens or near neighbours,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all who make war on enemies they hate and fear, yet hardly know,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all who make war as a last resort against cruelty and injustice,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all who manufacture and trade in deadly weapons,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On the victims and the perpetrators of rape as a weapon of war,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On the victims and the perpetrators of abuse and torture,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all who recruit and teach children to fight and kill,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all who plan and carry out acts of terrorist violence,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all who enact or survive hidden violence in their own homes,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all whose speech stirs up others to violent action,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all refugees from local and international conflict,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On all who live on land poisoned or mined during war,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

[On those living in the shadow of war today, in (*particular places may be named here*)
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**]

On aid agencies and their workers in conflict zones,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On peacemakers, bringing enemies together for an end to wars,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On the United Nations, working to resolve conflict without violence,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

On each of us, repenting of the anger stored up in our heart,
or expressed in our words or actions,
Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

The Litany ends with the Lord's prayer (if it is not being said elsewhere in the service) or with the following prayer

Holy God,
you call us to be messengers of peace
to those who are far off and to those who are near:
gather all the peoples of the earth
to live together with justice and love,
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A Prayer for ADF Chaplains

Holy Spirit, we thank you for calling men and women
to serve as chaplains on the battlefields of the past
and in the Australian Defence Force today.
Make all chaplains trustworthy companions to ADF members
on local bases and on international missions.
Guide them to the conversations
where the grace of Jesus Christ will be made known.
In life and death situations
and in the ordinary obedience of Defence Force life,
give them faith worth sharing.
Among peacekeepers, on disaster relief missions and in time of war,
shelter them with your love and wisdom
as messengers of hope and peace,
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

An outline order for a commemorative service of the Word

commemorating those who served and those who died in the First World War

*Required elements are few, and are listed below are in **bold**. Other elements are suggestions only and may be adapted, included or omitted to suit local circumstances. Hymnody / worship songs should be used sparingly and chosen with care when it is expected that many who are not regular churchgoers will be present. Instrumental music may be preferable, or a choir or other ensemble may sing historical or recent Christian words and music appropriate to the commemoration.*

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

- a) Acknowledgement of Country (eg "We acknowledge the *Name* people as the original custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their elders, past and present").
- b) A sentence of Scripture
- c) **A Greeting in the name of the Lord Jesus or the Holy Trinity**
- d) The lighting of the Paschal (Easter) Candle, perhaps with words taken from APBA p 709
- e) The presentation of memorabilia associated with those who served in the First World War, such as photographs, medals, books, letters
- f) A Canticle or Psalm said or sung by all. Suitable APBA canticles include
A Song of Hope (Isaiah 61.1-3, APBA p 393)
A Song of the Blessed (Matthew 5.3-10, APBA p 397)
The Song of Christ's Glory (Philippians 2.5b-11, APBA p 411)
The Canticle, Saviour of the World (APBA p 414)
The Canticle, Great and Wonderful (APBA p 426)
A Song of the Knowledge of Wisdom (APBA p 428)
- g) **A Prayer of the Day (APBA p 204 or 629)**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- a) **At least one reading from the Bible, taken from those provided for Anzac Day (APBA p 629).**
- b) Other readings as appropriate (for example, poems, excerpts from war diaries, letters, memoirs, newspaper articles).
- c) **A Sermon of a style and length appropriate to the congregation and occasion.**
- d) Music for reflection or meditation, perhaps combined with a visual presentation as below.

- e) Visual presentation (eg on a screen) of photographs of people who served, and / or the places where they served, including battlefields, hospitals and war cemeteries.

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

- a) A time of silent prayer before a large wooden cross or the Paschal (Easter) Candle. Votive candles may be provided for congregation members to light and place in a stand or sand-tray.
- b) **Prayers in the form of a Litany or a series of stand-alone prayers.** The prayers can be led by a variety of voices and / or community representatives. Prayers may include confession and the assurance of forgiveness such as those on APBA p 200-201.
- c) A roll-call of the names of those who served in the First World War. Names may be taken from a memorial board in the church building or from a community war memorial, and/or may be brought by those attending the service who wish to commemorate an ancestor or family member.
- d) The playing of the Last Post, followed by silence and then by the playing of Reveille or Rouse.
- e) **The Lord's Prayer** (in either the APBA version or the 1662 translation current at the time of the First World War, "Our Father, which art in heaven...") The chosen version should be printed out in full, and / or all may be invited to pray in their own languages or preferred versions.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- a) An invitation to join the community for continuing prayer for peace on the following Sunday or at other times.
- b) A sentence of Scripture such as Romans 8.38-39 or John 11.25-26.
- c) A closing prayer said by a lay leader or deacon, or a blessing said by a priest or bishop. The Prayer for Peace (APBA p 202) may be appropriate.
- d) **'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...'** said by all **OR A closing dialogue** ('Let us praise the Lord / Thanks be to God') or other form of dismissal.

*Resources produced by the General Synod Liturgy Commission
for use in the Anglican Church of Australia*