SUNDAY link

8 November 2026
Third Sunday before Advent/Remembrance Sunday

connecting faith and daily life

We will remember them

Caroline Hodgson *reflects on* Matthew 25:1-13

The parable Jesus tells in today's reading from Matthew is one of a series of answers he gives to a question that the disciples asked in chapter 24: 'What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?' His response forms the whole chapter, and it is full of imagery of violence, war, famine, earthquake, persecution and hatred – powerful, disturbing stuff. So you might think it strange that, on a day when we remember war, we have a reading about the more domestic subject of a marriage. Perhaps the lesson for today is to be found in the rallying call in the last line. 'Keep awake,' says Jesus, 'for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

Only God knows how things are going to turn out, and any attempt on our part to predict the future can never be anything more than conjecture. Yet what we do have is history to inform and guide us. We also have the example of Christ and his disciples, and of generations of men and women of faith – the saints and souls we recently commemorated. And today, as we remember those who lost their lives in conflict, we are reminded how war and violence can erupt out of injustice and intolerance.

Remember, then, that we know neither the day nor the hour. And so, with one eye on the past, we commit to staying vigilant and standing up to injustice and intolerance wherever we meet it.



As we remember the past, Lord, show us how to contribute towards a better future for our communities. Amen.

The Common Worship Lectionary

Connor Hurley concludes this series by suggesting how it can support a life of faith

In his second letter to Timothy (3:16), St Paul wrote: 'All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching'. And, as we've seen in recent weeks, the *Common Worship Lectionary* is the backbone of Anglican worship, setting out the readings for each Sunday and festival, drawing worshippers into a shared rhythm of scripture across the year. Rather than enabling us to focus on favourite passages, we're invited to engage with the whole story – through the prophets, psalms, Gospels and letters.

Following the lectionary at home, either individually or in small groups, can guide our daily reading and reflection, and connect our personal prayer with the wider Church community. It also stretches and challenges us by resisting any tendency to build a cocoon of faith around personal preference.

Finally, we turn again to St Paul, who wrote to the church at Rome (15:4), 'For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.'

World Science Day for Peace and Development

by Alan Jefferies

World Science Day for Peace and Development is marked on Tuesday to highlight the key role of science in promoting sustainable, peaceful societies. Established by UNESCO in 2001, it encourages public engagement, scientific literacy and international collaboration to address global challenges. The day connects research and daily life, and supports sustainable development goals. It also invites people to engage with science and the work of scientists whose work serves the common good.

The Bible speaks of curiosity and careful attention to God's creation: 'Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them,' says the psalmist (111:2). Science is one way of studying the world. Exploring cells, stars or climate systems need not compete with faith – rather, it can deepen our wonder at creation.

The American physician and author Allan J. Hamilton expressed it this way: 'People think of science as rolling back the mystery of God. I look at science as slowly creeping toward the mystery of God.'

> **'I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.'**
>
> C.S. Lewis (1898-1963), writer and theologian

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