**New Kilpatrick**

**Podcast**

**14th November 2021**

**Psalm 16**

**Introduction**

Hello… I’m Roddy Hamilton the minister of New Kilpatrick Parish… and thank you for creating the space for us to be together today… We take time to be silent today… on this Remembrance Sunday… not because we can’t say anything…. But because what we say is never enough… The words have run out… They ran out a long time ago…

We need… perhaps… the raw, awkwardness of silence… to speak for us today… so we let it do so…

Let us gather as all God’s people… in this more sombre time… and rightly so… where we can give the time we need to give to the best of our humanity… as we pause and reflect and make space for silence…

Let us worship

**Reading: Psalm 16**

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

**2**

I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord;
    I have no good apart from you.”[a]

**3**

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
    in whom is all my delight.

**4**

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;[b]
    their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
    or take their names upon my lips.

**5**

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
    you hold my lot.

**6**

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
    I have a goodly heritage.

**7**

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
    in the night also my heart instructs me.

**8**

I keep the Lord always before me;
    because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

**9**

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
    my body also rests secure.

**10**

For you do not give me up to Sheol,
    or let your faithful one see the Pit.

**11**

You show me the path of life.
    In your presence there is fullness of joy;
    in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**Prayer**

Loving God

Beyond the words we use and the fears we have

Beyond the anxiety and confusion

Beyond the pain and the loss

Yet within them all

We gather around silence

The only things we can do

That is big enough for all we feel

And praise you in the time we make together

Wherever we are

In remembrance

A god who is found in the pain of our humanity

A god found in the conflicts we create

A god found in the darkness of our worst

And calls us out from there

Into something beautiful again

Amongst all the names of today

Too many to mention

And their stories

And their memories

We find ourselves

In a privileged place

For our lives are woven among those

No longer with us

An d our world is possible still

Because of what they gave

And the values they had

That led them to give of self

In this place, O God

We fall silent

Pause for thought

And wonder if we could do that

Many have

Could we?

(Silence)

So let us gather up our words

And weave the stories

Among the name and the nameless today

And in your name

Make for a different way

Shaped by the depth of silence

Today

Hear us as we share the family prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven

Hallowed by 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power

And the glory, forever

Amen

**Act of Remembrance**

The air is thick with names today

Most we do not know

But they are here written in stone

And we all pass them each day

But here they have to wait

For this day

To be remembered

Today we pause with them

And say we WILL remember

And today we give them time

Two minutes of time

It is hardly a couple of breathes

Yet within this two minutes

There are a 100 million stories

Of men and women and children

Of battlefields and beaches

of Juno and Omaha and Gold

of Ypres and the Somme

There is Gallipoli

Imphal and Kohima

Clydebank and Dresden

Hiroshima and the Burma Road

Too many places

Whose history is linked to conflict

Today we pause with them

And say we will remember

Battles that are now films and novels

Text books and history lessons

And in the vain glory of what we do with our history

To entertain us

We remember there is a real story behind them

A real loss

A real lesson to learn

About love

About sacrifice

About giving of self

That we have yet to fully learn

Today we pause with them

And say we will remember

Individuals who gave themselves for country

For the values they believed in and lived

For governments and leaders

For communities like us

For futures they never knew

Not knowing if their sacrifice would make a difference

But we are here to say it has

And still will

And today we pause with them

And say we will remember

Individuals on every side of conflict

Those who have been left behind

Who are hungry because of war

Landless and stateless

And the way war has been used

In Syria and Yemen

In Iraq and Kuwait

In Afghanistan and Ireland

And not over yet

Today we pause with them

And say we will remember

My friends

This is no light hearted thing we do

Filling up a spare moment or two

We who are here today

Know that

We know this is costly

This has to feel costly to us

Costly enough that we know

We will always have to gather here

Because humanity cannot make peace easily

And do not learn lessons quickly

And so we repeat this act of remembrance every year

So those those who are restless for war

Hear our silence

As we hold the names and the nameless

Of all who have fallen

Today we pause with them

And no longer say we *will* remember

But make this time the time when we DO remember

It is an act of humanity

And let our remembrance

Shape our humanity

And who we yet can be

We remember

**News**

**Prayers for Planet**

Loving God

Hear our silences

Not because we come to prayer unprepared

But because words are not enough

And so for conflict

For so many individuals

And their stories

And their hopes

Who have died

Gone to war because of someones sense of power

For those whose land is left broken

Society ruined

Support and infrastructure abandoned

We don’t have the words

For those in Syria

In Yemen

In Afghanistan

Where an entire nation starves

And we watch it happen

Because of conflict

We don’t have the words

For our planet

Where environmental consequences

Are the result of war

And war becomes the result of climate change

Lack of water

Famine

Environmental refugees

We don’t have the words

So we pray for governments

And the wealthy

For industry and businesses

To find a morality that brings creation peace again

And we pray for ourselves

And our own lifestyles

And shifting of blame

And comfortable living

We don’t have the words

For our families and friends

For those ill and those confused

Those worried about the future

And those whose mental health is poor

Hear our silences, O God

For they contain far more than our words could hold

Hear us O Creator

O Peace-maker

O architect of creation

O companion of the widow and orphan

Hear us

Hear our silence

So be it

Amen

**Benediction**