



ARMY

**A Burial Service for
an Unknown British Soldier of the Great War**

10:15 hours on Thursday 8 November 2018

Buttes New British Cemetery, Belgium

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Buttes New British Cemetery was made after the Armistice when the graves of more than 2,100 Commonwealth servicemen were brought in from the 1917 battlefields of Zonnebeke. Sadly, more than three quarters of the casualties commemorated here, including the individual being buried today, remain unidentified.

Order of Service

Conducted by

**The Reverend Stuart Richards CF
Chaplain, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers**

Introduction

Psalm 91:1-2

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

Welcome

We are here to worship Almighty God, whose purposes are good; whose power sustains the world he has made; who loves us, though we have failed in his service; who gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world; who by his Holy Spirit leads us in his way.

As we give thanks for his great works, we remember those who have lived and died in his service and in the service of others; we pray for all who suffer through war and are in need; we ask for his help and blessing that we may do his will, and that the whole world may acknowledge him as Lord and King.

Bidding Prayer

Almighty God,
you judge us with infinite mercy and justice
and love everything that you have made.
In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new
life, and the sorrow of the parting into the joy of heaven;
through our saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 2: 2-5

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The Soldier

By Rupert Brooke

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Scripture Reading

John 14: 1-6

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me, that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going. Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
he restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
For thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff
they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anoint my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Interment

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God of his great mercy to take unto himself the soul of our dear brother here departed, we therefore commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall change the body of our low estate that it may be like unto his glorious body, according to the mighty working, whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

The Act of Remembrance

Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping: those who have died for their country in conflict; those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.

The Exhortation

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.
All: We will remember them.

The Last Post

Silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

When you go home, tell them of us and say,
“For your tomorrow, we gave our today.”

Laying of Wreaths

Prayers

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict,
and ask that God may give us peace:

For the service men and women
who have died in the violence of war,
each one remembered by and known to God;
may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

For those who love them in death as in life,
offering the distress of our grief
and the sadness of our loss; may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

For all members of the armed forces
who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends
and all who pray for their safe return;
may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

For civilian women, children and men
whose lives are disfigured by war or terror,
calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatred of humanity;
may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

For peacemakers and peacekeepers,
who seek to keep this world secure and free;
may God give peace.

All: God give peace.

For all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership,
political, military and religious;
asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve
in the search for reconciliation and peace;
may God give peace.
All: God give peace.

The Lord's Prayer

**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,
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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

Support us, O Lord,
All the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over
and our work is done.

Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last,
through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Blessing

The Lord bless and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of countenance upon you and give you his peace this day and always.

All: Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty; Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you, and those whom you love, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.



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