



Scale Modelworld

10th November 2019



Welcome to Worship

Welcome to the House of the Lord on this very special day. **Remembrance Sunday** is that very special and hallowed day (the most important) when we stop to remember and give thanks to those who have served their country in war and peace. We particularly pay homage to those who **“paid the full price of our freedom”** (with their lives), just as Jesus himself **“paid the full price of our salvation”** (with his earthly life) on the cross!

Like most of you here, I am a modeller myself. Like most of you here, I've been busy (when work commitments allow) getting models made, painted and decaled, etc. for display on the club and SIG stands. Now we have finished our models, travelled here from wherever and set up our displays let us just sit back for a short while in God's presence and let him minister to each one of us as he sees fit.

*“Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One IS here,
HE comes to cleanse and heal, to minister HIS grace,
No work to hard for HIM, in faith receives from HIM,
Be still for the power of the Lord IS moving in this place!”*

Prayer Time

First, may I invite you to clasp your hands together and/or bow your heads as we come before the Lord in prayer:

Heavenly father, we come before you in humble gratitude for all you do for us each day of the year and not just this one. We ask your forgiveness for our sins and failings, and for your loving guidance in all our concerns and worries for this world.

We give thanks and pray for those who are serving their country now, and those who have served their country in the past. We especially give thanks for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and take strength and comfort in the knowledge they are in Heaven in your tender loving arms, being healed of all their physical and spiritual injuries and at peace in your presence.



Anton Burrows

IPMS-UK Yorkshire Black Sheep Modellers – Publicity & Public Relations
IPMS-UK Scottish Aviation Special Interest Group – Deputy Leader
Antran Decals - Proprietor

We pray the veterans of current and past conflicts who live with the memories and the physical and psychological injuries of their service and ask that you guide in their time of need.

We pray for our leaders and that you will guide them in putting service to you and their country at the forefront of their thinking, decisions making and action. We pray for all members past and present of our armed forces and emergency services and ask that we be deserving of their service.

Amen

Bible Reading

The Bible Reading is the very well-known **Psalm 23** (The Lord is my Shepherd) taken from page 548 in the **Old Testament**, using the **Good News** translation.

The Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need.

*He lets me rest in fields of green grass,
and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.*

*He gives me new strength; He guides me in the
right paths as he has promised,*

*Even though I go through the deepest darkness,
I will not be afraid Lord, for you are with me,
your shepherd's rod and staff protect me.*

*You prepare a banquet for me, where all my enemies can see me.
You welcome me as an honoured guest and fill my cup to the brim.*

*I know your goodness and love will be with me all my life,
And your house will be my home if I live.*

Amen

(This wording is from the Good News Bible)

Sermon

I hope you feel the Bible Reading leads appropriately into the sermon.

When the First World War broke out in 1914, there was something of a jamboree atmosphere. Four years of senseless and merciless slaughter on both sides soon shattered this illusion!

The Internet, Skype and Twitter, etc. were not even science fiction in 1939, yet Russian, Japanese and Nazi atrocities were already known to some degree when the Second World War began. This and the lessons of the First World War meant the jamboree and “*we’ll be home for Christmas*” atmosphere were not present in 1939. The advancement in technology during the inter-war years meant most people were aware this war was going to be very different to the last one!

Modern society is often quick to criticise the armed forces and the emergency services, but they are human with the same frailties as any other human, regardless of their profession. Frailties notwithstanding, the armed forces and emergency services believe in their country and society, and they do not hesitate to come to the service of others, regardless of what risks they may face themselves. Consider this verse from the poem “A Soldier’s Silent Night” that often appears on Facebook at Christmas:

*The soldier awakened, and I heard a rough voice,
Santa don’t cry, this life is my choice,
I fight for freedom, I don’t ask for anything more,
My life is my God, my country, my corps.”*

Once the call to service is made, the armed forces and emergency services do not hesitate to gather their equipment and get where they are needed, be it in war or as a peacekeeping or humanitarian/relief mission. Even in these supposedly peaceful missions, they face dangers such as land mines, booby-traps and snipers, to name just three. Far from being deterred or frightened away, these dangers simply reinforce their determination and resolve to complete the mission they were sent to undertake on behalf of others.

As I said earlier, the Second World War was NOT like the First World War. Bombings, merciless slave labour and “execution squads” cause much damage and suffering on civilian populations, with large numbers being wiped out. Russian forces captured by the Nazis and Allied forces by the Japanese were to experience a total lack of mercy and humanity from their captors, being used for horrific experiments or slave labour, etc. Europe’s pre-war Jewish population was decimated by the Nazi Holocaust. Allied special forces operating behind enemy lines had a good idea of the horrific barbarity that awaited them if/when they were caught.

There is a growing trend of “Political Correctness” which says we shouldn’t teach the First and Second World War to our children in our schools. When history is not taught in schools, the mistakes and disasters of the past repeat themselves? The Second World War began in September 1939 because a lot of the lessons of the First World War had not been learnt. The world today is very much a result of the lessons of the two world wars not being learnt. I am of the age that were taught that beautiful First World War poem “*In Flanders Fields*” at school. By all

means disagree with me if you wish, but it's message is just as true of the Second World War:

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

Looking at the world around me, I ask the question "Have we broken faith with those who die?"

I spent part of my childhood in Australia, hence my modelling Australian subjects as well as Scottish, and consequently I measure everything and everywhere by Australian standards. The message I need to take away from this service is Australia is not perfect, and the United Kingdom for all its faults is not the worst country in the world by any means. I live in a country where I am free to worship in a church that is not the state church, where I can criticise authority without fear and where there is the rule of law. There are many countries in the world where I would not have these freedoms.

FREEdom is NOT FREE – it must be bought! The armed forces and the emergency services took great risks, and many paid the ultimate price in the First World War, the Second World War and other conflicts (including Iraq and Afghanistan) since so we can live in freedom today. Consider the worlds of the Kohima Epitaph:

*As you go home from this place, think of us and say,
For all your tomorrows, we gave our today!*

Benediction

The Benediction is on the back of the leaflet, so please feel free to decide for yourself whether you just want to follow the words or join me in making it a congregational prayer.

*This is the GOD we adore, our faithful, unchanging friend,
Who's love is as great as his power and knows neither measure nor end.
Tis Jesus, yes Jesus, the first and the last,
who's spirit shall guide us safely home.
We'll praise him for all that has past, and trust for what is to come!*

Amen

Good Morning and God Bless!

Anton

