



Scale Modelworld

7-8 November 2020



Welcome to Worship!

Although the Covid-19 pandemic prevent us from physically gathering together at the National Exhibition Centre in Telford for a weekend of fellowship and modelling, we can still gather in spirit?

Before we continue, may we stop for a moment or two to reflect on the loss of **Sam Bratby** (Harvard/Texan SIG) and **George Munro** (Between the Wars SIG), who always attended this service. George, Sam and I had been good friends virtually since I joined IPMS-UK in 1991, and we used to sit together in this service before I took on the role of leading it. Neither loss was due to the pandemic. Sam did have some health issues and had been in hospital. George simply "*went to bed and woke up in Heaven!*" Although they weren't attendees of this service we reflect on the loss of **Andy Scott** (New Zealand Special Interest Group), **Henry Ludlam** (IPMS-UK & IPMS-New Zealand) and **Eric Coyle** (IPMS-New Zealand), who were all active and well-known friends in the modelling community. May they all Rest in Peace.

Prayer Time

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

Dear Lord in Heaven, we come before you in humble prayer to give thanks for your grace and mercy, and ask for forgiveness of our sins.

Although this year has been a very difficult and challenging year for many, we are reminded of the many things we need to be thankful for. Those of us who are fortunate to have remained and healthy this year, we give thanks for your merciful protection. Those of us who have experienced illness (be it Covid-19 or any other) and recovered we give thanks to you for our deliverance. For those have experienced loss, or have friends or family who have experienced loss (be it Covid-19 or any other illness), we pray for your loving welcome for those who pass to your care, and your grace and love for those they leave behind.

This year of anniversaries, and we pray for the souls of those who "*paid the full*



Anton Burrows

IPMS-UK Yorkshire Black Sheep Modellers
IPMS-UK Scottish Aviation Special Interest Group

price of freedom” in the service of their countries in whatever capacity. We take comfort in knowing you have received them into your tender, loving care in Heaven as the heroes they are. We pray that your pardon our own sins and make us worth of their sacrifice.

This weekend reminds us of the veterans of past conflicts that are still with us. We ask you bestow your richest, choicest blessings on them, and that we can learn from their service and be better people for their influence and example.

We pray for those who in the service of their countries now and ask for your blessings and protection for each and every one. Those in positions of leadership (in whatever capacity) we ask you give them the wisdom and capacity to make wise and appropriate decisions that will benefit the communities they serve, and honour those who sacrificed all in the past for those same communities.

These prayers we make in the loving and precious name of Jesus.

Amen

Bible Reading

Psalm 91 – God Our Protector Good News Bible – Old Testament – Page 594

Whoever goes to the Lord for safety,
Whoever remains under the protection of the Almighty can say to him,
You are my defender and protector; you are my God; in you I trust.
He will keep you safe from all hidden dangers, and from all deadly diseases.
He will cover you with his wings, you will be safe in his care,
His faithfulness will protect and defend you.
You need no fear any dangers at night or sudden attacks during the day,
Or plagues that strike in the dark or evils that kill in the daylight.

A thousand may fall dead beside you, and ten thousand all around you,
But you will not be harmed.
You will look and see how the wicked are punished.

You have made the Lord your defender, the Most High your protector,
And so, no disaster can strike you, no violence will come near your home.
God will put his angels in charge of you to protect you wherever you go.
They will hold you up with their hands,
to keep you from hurting your feet on the stones.
You will trample down lions and snakes, fierce lions and poisonous snakes.

God says *“I will save those who love me,
and will protect those who acknowledge me as their Lord.*

*When they call to me I will answer them,
when they are in trouble, I will be with them,
I will rescue them and honour them,
I will reward them with long life,
I will save them!"*

Amen

Sermon

I would like to begin the sermon with words from a well-known hymn we often sing in the Salvation Army:

*Lord, the light of your love in shining,
In the midst of the darkness shining.
Jesus, Light of the World shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me!*

I am sure 2020 is a year most people will be only to glad to see the end of. The pandemic has turned the whole world upside down like nothing before it? In addition to the horrific death toll and the devastating effect it has had on peoples' health, the Covid-19 pandemic has also caused recessions and increased poverty and dependence as people loose or are at risk of losing their jobs and livelihoods.

In such a "dark and troubled year" it is quite understandable why people question or even loose whatever faith they might have. Although Covid-19 has dominated 2020 and continues to do so, the year has not been without "rays of light" we can celebrate – hence the verse above.

2020 marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. From 10 July 1940 to 31 October 1940 the young men and boys of the Royal Air Force with a strength of 1,963, often with little training, repelled the continuous attacks of the Luftwaffe (with a strength of 2,550 aircraft) as they attempted to gain air superiority over Britain to enable the long-planned Nazi invasion. 1,542 airmen did not come back!

*Never before in the field of human conflict
was so much owed by so many to so few!*

The terrible sacrifices made in the Battle of Britain and throughout the Second World War resulted in VE-Day (8 May 1945) and VJ-Day (15 August 1945) when the aggressor powers surrendered and the war was finally over. Despite the

terrible damage of the war and severe rationing, Britain was able to give thanks and celebrate its deliverance from evil.

In celebrating the great victories and anniversaries of the Second World War, we all too often overlook the Korean War, which began on 25 June 1950. Within the Cold War that began in the late 1940s, the Communist North Koreans invaded South Korea with a view to uniting the two under one communist dictatorship. It took 3 years of conflict and killing to push the communists north of the 38th parallel and back to where the war started. The United Kingdom made a very substantial contribution to the war effort, but the surviving veterans are all too often “the forgotten army of a forgotten conflict”

In commemorating and celebrating the victories and anniversaries of the Second World War and Korean War, let us not forget those who have served in other conflicts; Malaya, Aden, Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan. As the years pass, the veterans become fewer and fewer as they succumb to age or the physical or psychological injuries they experienced in conflict.

If it is fitting that we celebrate the victories and anniversaries, for using the freedom to express our gratitude is the ultimate and most fitting recognition of the risks and sacrifices they made in conflict on our behalf? In this era of “Political Correctness” let not the truth be polluted by the sordid world of politics?

Benediction

*And now to thee we render,
Our thanks for mercies past,
With grateful hearts imploring,
Thy favour to the last.
And at the great awakening,
May we be found above,
With the saints and angels praising,
Thy providence and thy love!*

Amen

Good morning and God Bless

Anton

Anton Burrows