

**Prayers for Remembrance Sunday
11th November 2018**

A leaf has Fallen
Be with us O God.

All seeing God, we ask you to be with us as we pray on this special day of Remembrance. Be along side us as we sit or kneel so we can feel your presence here today.

We hold this leaf and bring it before you to represent the Fallen. We remember today the millions who lost their lives in the Great War. Young, Old, White, Black and Asian, men who came from all corners of your earth to serve a cause they believed in. We sorrow for their innocence, we rejoice in their fervour and acknowledge their faith in you.

We pray for those whose graves are unknown, whose body's lie where they fell and for the unknown soldier in Westminster Abbey.

The red of life-blood was poured out onto the earth, as Christ's blood fell from the cross. It is a symbol of death and sacrifice.

When the guns stopped – silence, stillness - into which you can be heard, felt, experienced.

We hold in mind too, all those who have fallen in subsequent wars and conflicts, a reminder to us that your Peace is a challenge we have not yet brought into fruition across your world.

We pray that out of the decimation, grief and loss you may bring us life, hope, peaceful hearts and love for you.

The miracle “ a love which can hold us all”

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We hold this leaf to remind ourselves that we are Fallen people. We stand before you and wish to acknowledge the gap between your vision of ourselves, what you wish us to be and the reality of who we are and how we so often live our lives. Help us to understand the ways in which we fall short and give us the strength to hold firm to your love. We recognise the distress we bring to you and ourselves when we widen the gap between us, and we feel the loss, abandonment and try to seek you through our pain, doubt, and grief.

Yet our God, you are there, holding our hands, flowing in the redness of our blood and have never and will never leave us. Thank you for your grace to us.

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We hold this fallen leaf to remember the passing of the year, the death that comes to plants in autumn, in our country. They surround us with colour so vibrant it brings joy to our souls, a visual feast of your glory and artistry. We thank you for this part of your creation. Your physical world is changing before our eyes showing us that death is inevitable and that a death came to show your love, now ever present to us in Jesus.

Yet your world, by giving us its colour at this time of year, is a sign of trees holding on to their resources and energy that they require for the coming of spring. Your reminder to us that life is ever changing, yet always possible.

Help us to hold on to your succour, your food given to us unconditionally and unendingly. May we rejoice fully in it and the nurturing you offer us all. Give us open hearts so your living blood can flow through us fully, then, we can do everything we need to do to show your magnificence.

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Merciful father accept these prayers.....