



8. Community (United we stand)

Age range: Primary

Theme: *We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. We begin this academic year with a reminder that it's good to be grateful. Research reveals the importance of gratitude even in the midst of adversity: that being aware of each day's 'blessings' can counteract anxiety, and so this term, we want to encourage schools to continue to do this through their collective worship. We provide a script with reflective ideas for classroom use and PowerPoint; both have additional content that you may wish to spread across the week and use in classrooms to ensure that you are meeting the requirement for daily collective worship and to support the spiritual flourishing of your whole school community.*

*You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & levels of concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children. **This collective worship marks the act of remembering, in its annual place in schools' collective worship for 'Poppy Day'. Use this script on or near to November 11th, or Remembrance Sunday, November 8th. This assembly focuses on the fact that we take time to remember each year as an act of gratitude, and uses the stories of William Coltman, a WW1 soldier. There are also resources on the Royal British Legion website, including a sound file of the [Last Post](#), usually played to mark the start of the 2 minutes' silence.***



How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

Use this section to reference how your school's vision & values help you to remember, including any regular routines that you embark on to mark Remembrance.

How might this link with the Guildford Diocese spirituality offer?



This icons in this section show how the collective worship theme links with the elements of **self, others, beauty** and/or **beyond**

That peace starts with us

Remembering how the actions of people from the past have helped build peace for us today, and the impact we can have on our future peace

The importance of remembering and peacekeeping as spiritual practices; for some, because they are important to God

Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in bold show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. To help any children with visual timetabling, we include an icon for each different part of this collective worship in the top right corner of each slide.
- Our story for this week is from real life – it's worth helping younger children to realise this, as the 'stories' that they experience are often made up. You may want to read it more than once to help children to be able to think about the question posed on slide 13.
- You will need 6 poppies to make 6 poppy 'actions for peace' using the cards on p.4 and attaching a poppy to the top of each. You could 'plant' them into an indoor garden tray if you have one. You might want to leave more poppies for children to 'plant' as they think about being a peacemaker this week.**
- For your class reflection areas:** use the poppy labels from the collective worship in your reflective areas, to prompt conversations and commitments to living as peacemakers and peacekeepers. You could also print some blank labels so that children can also collect their own ideas about being peacemakers.

Gathering:

Slide 1: Welcome stilling exercise – Poppies

Use the stilling slide if desired: the suggested words should be spoken slowly, leaving pauses inbetween to create a sense of stillness.

As you sit quietly here, watch the poppies blowing gently in the breeze.....[PAUSE]

Now practise slower breathing.....in.....and out.....in.....and out.....keep this going as you continue to watch....[PAUSE]

You maybe notice that you are feeling calmer and more relaxed....[PAUSE]

As you breathe, think about yourself and what you bring into this time today.....[PAUSE]

We come into this special / sacred space and time to be still.....to think deeply.....to be together as a school community.....

In our time together today, we will..... see more images of poppies.....share a story.....and then think together.

But first, let's welcome one another as we begin....

- Slides 2/3:** Use the greeting to your school community – there are two slightly different versions from the point of view of the leader; choose which best fits your school's context. One uses words adapted from [Psalm 118:24](#)
- Leader:** This is a day that God has made!
- ALL:** We will rejoice* and be glad* in it!



OR:

- **Leader:** Today is a brand new day.....
- **ALL:** May we be a blessing to each other!

*There are different BSL signs for rejoicing and joy/gladness. View them here: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/rejoice>
Blessing: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/blessing> (1st video)

Engaging:

- **Slide 4:** This term, we are thinking about our blessings – all the good things in our lives – and today we are going to be thinking about remembering with gratitude (thankfulness).
- **Slide 5:** I wonder what you thought of when you saw the poppies at the beginning? For most of us, it will be **'Poppy Day'** or more correctly, Remembrance (Armistice) Day – when across the world, the nations remember the many acts of courage, selflessness and service of those who fought in past wars, and those who are still doing so. We choose to **remember with gratitude**.
- **Slide 6:** Since the end of the Great War (also known as WW1) in 1918, which people said was the 'war to end all wars', poppies have become a symbol for this act of remembering and being thankful.
- **Slide 7:** Here, you can see Guildford Cathedral, full of poppies, to mark 100 years since the First World War ended in 1918. Poppies help us to remember and be grateful.
- **Slide 8:** We often think about the soldiers who gave their lives, so that we might live in peace. We're going to spend a short while finding out about just one soldier now and reflect on the things that we can learn from his life – and be grateful for.
- **Slide 9:** Like so many other young men, William Coltman joined up in January 1915, aged 26, initially as a rifleman in the North Staffordshire Regiment, but he never fired a shot. He was a Christian, and early on in the war, he made the decision that he wanted to be a 'peacemaker'. He determined that he should not end lives, but try to save them.
- **Slide 10:** And so, instead of fighting, he became a stretcher-bearer. The job of a stretcher-bearer was to rescue the injured men from where they fell, often trudging through the mud in 'No-Man's Land' – through enemy fire from all sides. William was only 5'4" tall, but he didn't let his size stop him, and he was well-known for carrying the wounded off the battlefield on his back! Most nights, he would venture out into enemy lines to see if any of his regiment were left behind.
- **Slide 11:** This sculpture is modelled on him, and shows him carrying a wounded soldier away from the battlefield on his shoulders.
- **Slide 12:** He did this for three years and was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on October 3rd & 4th, 1918. His official letter states that: **'This very gallant NCO tended the wounded unceasingly for 48 hours....He won many other medals too, yet never fired a single bullet.'** William Coltman was one of the few who survived WWI. [**Non-commissioned officer*]
- **Slide 13: What can we learn from William Coltman?**
Talk with children about their ideas in response to this question.
- **Slide 14:** The peace we continue to enjoy today was won at a very great cost. This is why on Remembrance Day each year, we hear the words 'At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them', as we think of those who gave so much so that we might live at peace....
- **Slide 15:** Jesus once talked about being a 'peacemaker' – and that our world would need people who would be prepared to act in ways that would bring peace – which is perhaps not what you're expecting to hear as we've been thinking about the great cost of war!
We say the words 'we will remember them' and wear poppies to show that we are grateful to those who lives were changed forever by war, but this year, I wonder whether we can also try to do something to show we are grateful. I wonder what it might be like for **us** to try to live as peacemakers? I have 6 special poppies here with 6 different ideas for living peacefully. Let's look at them together [*read and display poppies*] You might want to add to this 'poppy garden' as you think of more ideas during this week.



Slide 16: Responding (and words for worship), you might also wish to hold your own period of silence at this point. We have used the same video slide here as at the start.



Let's be still and quiet together now....

...We've been thinking today about how we wear a poppy to help us to remember....

....we've also heard about one WWI soldier whose life made a difference, and whose bravery and service is especially remembered by us today....

... even in the midst of war, it is possible to be a 'peacemaker' like William Coltman....

....Jesus called all who followed him to act in this way.....to **be a peacemaker**

....but even if you're not a follower of Jesus, acting peacefully is still good!....

....our world needs 'peacemakers'....

...in the stillness, you might like to think about one thing that you could do to act peacefully this week....

Slide 17: Prayer

It is good to be able to pray for people who are working across our world to bring peace where there is conflict, and so if you'd like to join me and pray this as well, I invite you to join me by repeating the words **God give peace** at the very end.

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

God give peace.

Slide 18: Amen

To listen to: ['A Hymn for Peace'](#) from Engage Worship, which is a beautiful prayer with child-friendly pictures or [Remembrance Song](#) (NBD)

To sing: [Kum ba yah](#) (BBC);

Slide 19: Sending

Leader: As we leave this place & time and go into the day ahead...

All: We will remember them, and live in peace.



Slide 20: Reflection areas

Print out labels from p.4, hole-punch a single hole at the end and attach a poppy to each.

Think: Read the poppy labels and then think about what they mean. Which might be things that you could do?

Do: Go and make peace happen wherever you go today!

Talk: What other peace-making actions could we think of?

Ideas to build spirituality, using the outdoors – and your classroom reflection areas:

- Watch a lovely, no words clip about Poppies on [CBeebies](#). Talk about the story that this clip tells.
- **Make a piece of art** incorporating poppies, as an act of remembrance, or **go outdoors** and gather natural resources to make your own 'memorials' in a shared space on your field or playground. Invite everyone to walk through them, view them and remember.
- Set up a **Remembrance themed 'prayer space'** using the suggestions from [Prayer Spaces in Schools](#). Search for: Remembrance Ribbons, Dove of Peace or Poppy Prayers. Although perhaps more suitable for Juniors, the ideas could be adapted for KS1 by inviting them to hang a ribbon, or write a prayer in a dove outline or on a poppy, to gather in your own 'Field of Remembrance' in your reflective area.
- Use the resources from Engage Worship for a **prayer for remembrance** (in PowerPoint format) [here](#). This would be more suitable for older children.
- Find out more about the life of another WW1 soldier, **Walter Tull**, on the Spurs website [here](#), a news article [here](#) and a BBC Bitesize article [here](#), which includes a short animated film. Why do you think he is such a good role model at this time in our history?
- Did you know that you can buy poppies in 4 different colours, to 'say' 4 different things? Find out more [here](#).



**chat with someone
new today**

**say something nice
to someone today**

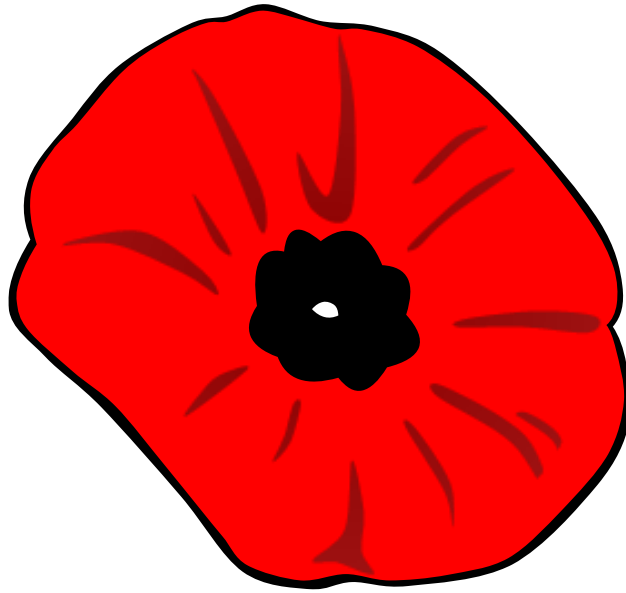
**remember to say
thankyou today**

**offer to help
someone who
needs it**

**pray for peace in
our world**

**let someone go in
the line in front of you**





**Jesus said, 'Be a peacemaker.'
William Coltman did this in World War 1.**



**Read the poppy labels and then
think about what they mean.
Which might be things that you
could do?**



**Go and make peace happen
wherever you go today!**



**What other peace-making
actions could we think of?**

