



Scale Modelworld

12th November 2023



Beginning on a purely personal note, I am thankful to be in this place of faith and leading worship for the first time since 2019. Maybe I've been over cautious, but unless I've been asymptomatic, I have avoided Covid-19 throughout the pandemic and since. I would also like to pray God's blessing on **Mark Attrill** for "*stepping up to the mark at the last minute*" and leading this worship last year. Can we just pause for a moment and remember those members of this unique fellowship who are no longer with us, whether its due to Covid-19 or other reasons.

Prayer Time

Dear Lord in Heaven, in your infinite mercy hear our prayer.

We become before you in repentance and gratitude. Repentance of our sins and failings, and gratitude for giving us the freedom to come before in worship and prayer.

On this hallowed day of remembrance, we remember all those who have served their country(ies), and particularly those who have paid the ultimate price so we might have the freedom we have. May we be worth of their sufferings and sacrifices.

As we give thanks for the peace and freedom we have in our own country, we reflect and pray for those who do not. We bring Ukraine and the Middle East before you in prayer and ask for your mercy and peace so the fighting and destruction might stop, and the healing and rebuilding might begin. We pray for wherever else in the world there is conflict, persecution and/or tension and ask for healing grace to bring peace and security in its place.

We give thanks to you, dear Lord, for this weekend of friendship and fellowship and pray your richest, choices blessings on everyone who has contributed to it in any way. May we all have safe, uneventful journeys home, taking away many wonderful memories and your blessings.

These things we pray in your loving, merciful and blessed name.

Amen



Anton Burrows

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Bible Reading

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5.1-12: The Sermon on the Mount
Good News Bible—New Testament—Page 7

Message

The pandemic has had a severe, lasting effect on the world that will be with us for many years to come. The lockdowns did bring a community spirit that has been sadly lacking for some time. As we emerged from the last lockdown, there was real hope we could rebuild our lives and the world. The conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East have been a huge setback to that hope but it is not a forlorn hope, but it is understandable why some people have no faith in God(s) or religion(s).

Armistice Day and **Remembrance Sunday** are two very special days in the year when we reflect and honour those who fought and died for our freedoms and way of life. In Australia, New Zealand and some Pacific nations, remembrance takes place on **ANZAC Day** (Australia & New Zealand Army Corps), which is 25th April, and having spent part of my childhood in Australia I can still remember ANZAC Day services myself.

When we reflect on the sacrifices and see other conflicts raging about us it is quite understandable why people lose or question any faith they have. There is nothing wrong in that – we need to have doubt before we can find true faith. I have not always been a practicing Christian myself, but the Good Lord in his infinite mercy has seen fit to welcome me back into his presence and use me in this role.

This may appear childlike or possibly even insane, but I do not believe the conflicts round the globe can rage forever – they're too destructive and the risk of a final Armageddon is too great? My faith tells me that great leaders such as **Anwar Sadat** (President of Egypt, 1970-1981) will emerge who will have the courage to reach out to their enemies and offer the hand of peace.

We believe in ourselves (nothing wrong in that), our families and our countries. As modellers we often get criticised for glorifying and encouraging war through the models we make. In fact, our hobby promotes peace and friendship through contact and understanding with modellers from other countries. We often do a lot of reading and other background research on the models we make give us a knowledge of their history/use and make us want to ensure any real weapons are not fire in anger – surely a substantial contribution to peace?

Benediction

This is the God we adore, our faithful, unchanging friend.

Who's love is as great as his power and known neither measure nor end.

Tis Jesus, yes, it's Jesus, the first and the last, who's love will guide us safely home.

We'll praise him for all that has past, and trust for what is to come!

Amen

Anton Burrows