



**Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge of the United Church**  
**Sunday November 8, 2020**  
**Olds 9:30 am Sundre 1:30 pm**



**Minister: Rev. Tammy Allan**

*As we worship we gratefully acknowledge that we are on the ancient and traditional lands of The Blackfoot Nation, the people of the Treaty 7, and of Metis Region 3.*

*May we cherish and care for these lands and the people, just as those who came before us did.*

### **Prelude**

### **Opening Call**

On this day of Remembrance, O God, we give thanks:

**For peacekeepers and pacifists; for those who served on the front lines, and those who protest and march; for those who volunteered and those who waited anxiously at home; for those who hoped that things would get better, and those who could not stand by and wait.**

We give thanks for those who believed that the world could be a better place.

**We remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, trusting that others could and would carry the torch.**

We give thanks for those who were once enemies who have become friends and allies.

**On this day of Remembrance, O God, we give thanks that we can worship together.**

*Written by Rev. Dr. Neil Parker, military chaplain,  
4th Canadian Division Training Centre in Meaford, ON*

### **Prayer**

**O God, may we be thankful for the faith of our ancestors, and for their trust that stories and prayer could become a sanctuary. May we be faithful to that trust that you will always be with us. As we grow and change, may we also trust in your presence as we discern the road ahead. Bless us with the confidence to rejoice in you, with you, and for you. Amen.**

### **Remembrance Ceremony**

**Musical Interlude VU 524 O Canada <https://youtu.be/LLFLEVPcgkY>**  
**Act of Remembrance**

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

**We will remember them.**

**We will remember them.**

## **Last Post**

### **Time of Silence**

**Reveille** <https://youtu.be/XwBK69WTjfl> (this link does Post, Silence and Reveille)

### **Words of Remembrance**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O God, and may perpetual light shine upon them.

**May the souls of the righteous, through your great mercy, rest in peace. Amen.**

### **Time with Children**

**Reading for today** Psalm 78: 1-7 VU 792 part 1 (*skip the refrain*)

### **A Message for Today**

Remembrance Day Reflections

This psalm is so very fitting – as we reflect on Remembrance Day, and the call to listen to the stories of our past. For we know how very important it is to help our children and grandchildren understand the sacrifice of people who serve their countries as members of the armed forces and protective services.

We live in hope that one day peace will reign over our world, that those kinds of sacrifices will not need to be made...that those stories that get told will be history, not current reality.

Until then, we must tell the stories, and live as people who remember, with gratitude for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in their struggle to make a difference for our country, and our world.

This psalm would have been something that arose in a time of oral history – a time when story telling was the primary method of sharing information, of teaching younger generations the history of their people.

In story telling, history can come to life. And so it is that I offer to you some United Church stories, reflections for this week of Remembrance.

The first comes from *Capt. (Rev.) Linda Tomlinson-Seebach*, of *Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan*:

I remember when I first heard the biblical account of the healing of the centurion's slave. It was at a church parade while on training in the naval reserve many years ago. I don't recall which gospel version I heard, Matthew or Luke, but in both accounts Jesus responds the same, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith" (Luke 7:9).

Really? No one in all of Israel has as greater a faith as a Roman centurion? Why?

Those words came to me in the early years of my call to serve in the military and they brought me much comfort. Little did I know then how my understanding of the centurion would continue to deepen and grow as I grew in Christian faith and service.

In my early to mid-20s I struggled with “what I wanted to be when I grew up.” Because of a life changing conversation I had with my economics professor, who also just also happened to be in the naval reserve, I entered university before I finished my first semester in a college business program. I had shared with him my desire to go to university after college, but I didn’t know how I could finance it. He introduced me to the idea of joining the naval reserve where I could have a part-time income while going to school in the fall and winter, and a full-time income serving and training with the naval reserve in the summer months. Shortly thereafter, by his invitation and God’s grace, I enrolled in HMCS *Queen* as a Logistics Officer Cadet on November 2, 1982. That day changed the course of my life.

Since then I have served the military at various times and places in both the reserve and regular force and in three different military occupations: logistics, public affairs, and now chaplaincy. I have worn all three uniforms - navy, air force and now army. God called me to the military first, and then to ministry in The United Church of Canada, and in between those two callings God also called me to full-time motherhood.

Currently, I am in full-time ordered congregational ministry at Minto United Church in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. I also serve as a reserve military chaplain with the Saskatchewan Dragoons, an armoured reconnaissance unit. Although at times I am stretched keeping up with the demands of this tri-vocational calling, I also know there is no life like it and I wouldn’t want to give up any of it — especially when I am called to bring light to dark places.

Last year, in what surely has been the greatest moment I have ever experienced when the light poured in. It happened at the Consecration of the Guidon ceremony for the Saskatchewan Dragoons on November 3, 2018, almost 36 years to the day I enrolled in the naval reserve.

A unit’s colours (called “guidon”) are battle honours. The colours are a flag of honour used in commemorative ceremonies today and historically to lead soldiers into battle during war. A unit’s colours are intended to wear out with time. The Saskatchewan Dragoons had received a replacement guidon for the previous one that had been used since the 1970s. As part of the ritual in receiving a new guidon, the old one is taken away and the new one is consecrated by the Chaplain General of the Canadian Armed Forces in a special ceremony. The retired guidon is then “laid up” — hung, until it finally wastes away to dust. This is a visual sign of our desire that, in time, there will no longer be any such colours to be newly displayed, and war will be at last remembered no more. As I stood beside the Chaplain General of the Canadian Armed Forces, feeling both humbled and honoured, I was beholden to the guidon which lay (literally) on top of the drums waiting to be consecrated (or blessed).

I thought about the thousands of young Canadians who signed up to go to battle without any clue of the price they were about to pay. I thought of the young

women who left their families to go work in factories for the war effort and now go off to serve in missions around the globe. I thought of my own sons and how I would feel if they were to go off to war and not come home again. I thought of war veterans whose lives changed forever because of physical, emotional, or moral wounds. I thought of the many great people I have served with in the military and how grateful I was. I thought of those who came back from war with wounds only their children would see as they suffered in silence.

After the guidon was blessed it was lifted up and paraded.

In that moment, as I contemplated the cost of war and the cost of peace, the soldiers paraded the new guidon, lifted high and proud above them. I understood why the *values* of a society must always be held higher than the *people*. I saw and felt the presence of those who passed on. I felt the pain of those who lived through war and suffered silently. Each and every time the guidon is lifted up and paraded it symbolizes the sacrifice they made for a better world.

And, in the midst of all this I heard the centurion plead for healing. And in that moment, I too pleaded for healing – for the living and the dead. Jesus, heal us...lest we ever forget.

— *Capt. (Rev.) Linda Tomlinson-Seebach serves full time in congregational minister at Minto United Church in Moose Jaw, SK while also serving as a part-time reserve military chaplain with the Saskatchewan Dragoons.*

The second reflection is written by two people - *Canadian Armed Forces chaplains Commander Shaun Yaskiw, CD (The United Church of Canada) and Maj. Rev. Dr. Tom Hamilton, Canadian military historian (The Presbyterian Church in Canada)*

On the base of one of the 2048 burial markers in the military cemetery located in [Bény-sur-Mer](#), France, these familiar words from the Apostle Paul may be found. “And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three but the greatest of these is love” (1 Cor. 13:13).

They are etched on the gravestone of Honourary Captain, the [Rev. William Alfred Seaman](#), a United Church minister, who is buried beside some of the fallen soldiers whom he himself buried.

Padre Seaman left his congregation in River John, Pictou County, Nova Scotia to serve with the Canadian Chaplain Service during World War II. He and the soldiers of the 5th Field Regiment arrived in France just after [D-Day](#) in 1944.

As a chaplain, he could often be found working alongside the Medical Officer at the Regimental Aid Post, assisting stretcher bearers and bandaging wounds—those both seen and unseen—and above all, bringing a sign of God’s presence in a broken world.

On July 14 while rushing into battle to retrieve wounded soldiers during the [Battle of Caen](#), he was struck by an exploding mortar shell. The shrapnel pierced his leg, side, and head. He died of an infection a week later, on the date of the tenth anniversary of his marriage to Louise. Together they had two young children at the time, Lorna and Andrew.

Today, as Canadians remember the sacrifices made by so many on the shores of France 75 years ago, we remember Padre William Alfred Seamen, whose response to Jesus' call to "Follow me," led him to a distant shore, and who lies now at rest among those whom he served to the very end. His gravestone reminds us still of God's enduring presence and promise of a life which abides, even in the valley of the shadow of death.

—By Canadian Armed Forces chaplains Commander Shaun Yaskiw, CD (*The United Church of Canada*) and Maj. Rev. Dr. Tom Hamilton, Canadian military historian (*The Presbyterian Church in Canada*)

Both of these stories are found on the United Church of Canada website. I share them, as they offer story – history – of people who are and who have served God and country.

The New Standard Revised version of today's scripture tells us:  
...he (God) commanded our ancestors to teach to their children;  
<sup>6</sup>that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,  
<sup>7</sup>so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

May we carry out that message of telling our stories, so that the generations that come after us will indeed set their hope in God. And may we live our lives seeking peace, for all creation.

In closing...may I offer a suggestion - to stand on your porch on Wednesday at 11:00 for a moment of silence, in honour and remembrance. Also – I invite a few of you to take our painted rocks to the centataph and place them there, anytime before Wednesday morning.

**Musical Interlude** VU 684 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

**This Week's Minute for Mission**

**Offertory Music** VU 542 We Give You But Your Own

**Offertory Prayer**

**O God, receive the fullness of our offering. Increase the joy of our serving. Set free the love of doing your work. In the name of our Sustainer we pray. Amen.**

**Prayers for This Day**

O God of grace, we bring our prayers to you this day, holding fast to the vision of your realm of shalom, and committed to the cause of peace. And we have come to remember those who gave of themselves that we might have that dream.

We give thanks for all those who gave their lives for liberty and justice; for all those who returned from war to live with the memories of that; for all those who were at home, waiting for loved ones to return.

As we live, safely in our prairie community, help us to remember those who have lived through times of war, and those still living with that reality.

Help us to be bearers of peace in the world, we pray.

And help us, God, as we remember, to tell the stories, to teach our children that they might seek to live in peace and hope for a new tomorrow.

We lift in prayer those in our community who are in need of healing, those living with illness, those awaiting test results. We offer prayers for those who are experiencing loss, through death or other circumstances. May they know the comfort of your presence, O God.

We pray for all those affected by this pandemic, through illness, economic struggles related to it, through isolation and loneliness, through fear. We pray too for all people in parts of the world where poverty and hunger are daily realities...that in turn affect resistance to disease and illness.

We give thanks for the years of legacy of this community of faith, and live in hope that the commitment to be a faithful United church presence in this region will live on. Give us courage and wisdom as we live as followers of your way, O God.

In a moment of silence, we offer the prayers of our hearts....

Grant us peace, O God, as we knit our voices together saying the words Jesus taught us...

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.

### **A Blessing for Today**

Having gathered, remembered, heard, given, and prayed,

**We ask, O God, for your blessing, and your continual presence with us.**

Remind us that no matter where we go, you are there.

**No matter how bleak the world becomes, all it takes is one ray of light for a new day to be upon us once again. Thanks be, Amen.**

**Choral Blessing** Go Now in Peace, Never Be Afraid

*We are back to in person worship, with careful COVID precautions!  
The bulletin and sermon will continue to be posted to the websites, for those who  
are unable to join us. Questions? Please call or email (contact info is below).*

**Please note that Olds worship is now at 9:30, to accommodate Redemption  
Church's worship at 11:00  
Sundre will worship at the usual time of 1:30.**

*Next week the Worship Committee will be leading worship in Olds and Sundre.*



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