

ANZAC Day Christian Liturgy / Resources

Units/personnel form up (or the congregation take their places)

Bugler in position (or tape)

Catafalque party is mounted

Invocation

Lord God, be with us this morning as we gather to pay tribute to those who have been involved in our Nation's battles.

As we remember those who have died in war, let us pray that He will give us grace to serve Him unto our life's end. Amen

Sentence

"No one has greater love than this, than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends," says the Lord, if you do what I command you."

John 14.13-14

Prologue

'At 0500hrs, three platoons of the leading company of the 7th Battalion set off in four of the ship's boats. As they moved away from the dim light, the Company Commander, Major Jackson could see the flashes of shells and rifles to their front.

Approaching the shore, the men caught the sound of firing, to their right they could see shells bursting over other boats of the Battalion. Ahead they saw rifle and machine gun fire cutting up the water.

As the lead boat, under the command of Captain Layh, entered the field of fire, five out of the six rowers were shot, but others took the oars, and they pushed on. The boat was scraping the shingle when, as Captain Layh threw himself into the water beside it, he was shot through the hip.

As he turned to call the men forward, he was again shot in the leg. With the survivors, he scrambled toward the little grass-tufted sand hummocks fringing the beach, and they lay low behind them.

Of the 140 men in the four boats, only 3 officers and 36 men, many wounded, made the safety of the hummocks, the rest lay dead or dying behind them.' ¹

¹ C.E.W. Bean, *'The Story of ANZAC'*

Reading or Requiescat

On this day above all days, we recall those who served in war and who did not return to receive the grateful thanks of the Nation. We remember those who still sleep where they were left - amid the holly scrub in the valleys and on the ridges of Gallipoli, on the rocky and terraced hills of Palestine - and in the lovely cemeteries in France.

We remember those who lie asleep in the ground beneath the shimmering haze of the Libyan Desert - at Bardia, Derna, Tobruk - and amid the mountain passes and olive groves of Greece and Crete, and the rugged, snow-capped hills of Lebanon and Syria.

We remember those who lie buried in the rank jungle of Malaya and Burma - in New Guinea - and in the distant isles of the Pacific. We remember those who lie buried amid loving friends in our Motherland and in our own far north. We remember those who lie in unknown resting places in almost every land, and those gallant men whose grave is the unending sea.

Especially do we remember those who died as prisoners of war, remote from their homeland, and from the comforting presence of their kith and kin. We think of those in our women's services who gave their lives in foreign lands and at sea, and of those who proved to be, in much more than name, the sisters of our fighting men.

We recall too, the staunch friends who served beside our men on the first ANZAC Day - men of New Zealand who helped to create the Legend of ANZAC. We recall those who gave their lives serving with the other British Commonwealth and allied forces.

We think of every man and woman who has died so that the lights of freedom and humanity might continue to shine. We think of those gallant men who died in Korea, in Malaya, and in Vietnam, assisting to defend the Commonwealth, and other countries of the free world, against a common enemy.

May these all rest proudly in the knowledge of their achievement, and may we and our successors in that heritage prove worthy of their sacrifice.

ANZAC Day Prayer of the day

O God, our ruler and guide, in whose hands are the destinies of this and every nation, we give you thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this land and for those who laid down their lives to defend them:

We pray that we and all the people of Australia, gratefully remembering their courage and their sacrifice, may have grace to live in a spirit of justice, of generosity and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Scripture Readings

Micah 4.1-4 or 2 Samuel 22.2-20
Psalm 46 or Psalm 51.14-19
Hebrews 10.32-11 or Romans 5.1-8
John 15.9-17 or John 10.1-21

Address or Homily

Prayers

Prayer of Remembrance

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we remember with thanksgiving those who made the supreme sacrifice for us in time or war. We pray that the offering of their lives may not have been in vain.

May your grace enable us this day to dedicate ourselves to the cause of justice, freedom and peace; and give us the wisdom and strength to build a better world, for the honour and glory of your Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayer for Peace

Father of all, we are your family; and you call us together to live as brothers and sisters. Help us to overcome the barriers that divide people and nations one from another.

Bless every effort being made to bring peace and understanding to the world. So that we may learn Your ways and serve Your will. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A Prayer for Those Who Suffer Because of War

Father of mercies and God of all comfort, whose Son ministered to those in need: We pray for all those who suffer through the wars of nations, by loss of home or faculties, by loss of friends and loved ones, by loss of happiness or security or freedom.

We pray for those whose hearts are still bitter, and find it difficult to forgive. Comfort their hearts, uphold their faith and grant them peace through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

(Additional prayers as appropriate for the occasion are said)

Act of Remembrance and Dedication

ANZAC Day Dedication

'On this day, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, ANZAC as it came to be known, received its baptism of fire and became one of the immortal names in history. We who are gathered here think of the Comrades who went out to the battlefields of the First World War, Second World War, Korea, Malaya, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan but did not return.

We wish to be worthy of their great sacrifice. Let us therefore once more dedicate ourselves to the Service of the ideals for which they died. As the dawn is even now about to pierce the night so let their memory inspire us to work for the coming of a new light into the dark places of the world.'

Wreaths are laid

Ode

They shall not grow 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.

All: We will remember them.

Lest we forget.

All: Lest we forget.

Last Post (*members in uniform salute, those with weapons present Arms, males in civilian attire remove hats*).

One Minute Silence

Rouse (*Flag to top then to half-mast at completion of service*)

Benediction (*or an another appropriate benediction*)

Go out into the world in peace. Be brave; keep hold of what is good.
Never pay back wrong for wrong; encourage the faint hearted;
Support the weak and distressed; give due honour to everyone.
Be always joyful and give thanks whatever happens for this is what God wills for you. **Amen**

National Anthem *'Advance Australia Fair'* (those in uniform Salute, males in civilian attire remove hats)

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts,
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross,
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Catafalque Party is dismantled.

Disperse.