

A Service suitable for inclusion in a School Assembly

This service can be included in a school assembly. It is suggested that any school announcements and awards be made before the Prologue.

School songs should be around the order of service. The National Anthem should be one of the songs used. An ANZAC Hymn should be used before the Benediction.

ANZAC Day 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.' C.E.W. Bean, *'The Story of ANZAC'*

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 and Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan and in the service of peace as UN Peacekeepers but did not return.

We remember too, those who returned home bearing the physical and mental scars of war.

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 or suffered.

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.

Bible Reading

Invocation Prayer

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 commend their souls again to God's eternal mercy; and let us pray that He will give us grace to serve Him unto our life's end. **Amen**

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**

Last Post

Silence

Rouse

[Song/Hymn]

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