

## Devotion for Remembrance Day:

Today is an important day. It is important for us to remember those who sacrificed so much, even life itself, to work towards a better day and world. It is important for us to remember those who remained at home, caring for families, farms and businesses. It is important for us to remember those who objected to the violence of war, but in that objection went to work to help build the infrastructure of our nation. It is also important to remember those who because of the colour of their skin or cultural identity were interred in camps, not because they were a threat, but because they were perceived as such. It is important for us to remember all of these and many others, who gave up so much, so that we could understand and know peace in our times. It is important that we learn from all of their experiences so we can understand and know that the words, "Never again," are rooted in a deep history of pain and sorrow that should not ever be repeated.

It is important not only to remember, but to live out that remembrance, in both word and action. It is important to ensure that our children understand that the common good for all, was and still is, the goal we strive for in our days. It is important for the generations that follow to understand and know that the basic human rights we often misunderstand and take for granted are not guaranteed; rather they are often fragile and fleeting, particularly if we lose sight or forget how they came to be in the first place.

Today will be different for many of us, as the pandemic has unfortunately forced many Remembrance Day services to be cancelled or to be greatly limited. Yet even so, each of us has the ability this day to pause at 11am, to stand or sit in silence, to remember those who served and those who did not and to recall the gifts that we now live with and often take for granted. Each of us has the ability to stop for just a moment and in the silence of that moment to offer our thanks and to remember the sacrifices made, by so many.

I hope and pray my friends, that through our remembrance, through our teaching of the next generations and through our own words and actions, that some day the words never again will be true. Until that time, we all have work to do; work that is focused on caring for our neighbours, remembering what has come before us and walking in the ways of hope today.

May it be so!

Sincerely,

Rev. Adam Hall