



ROB'S BLOG

November 2013 – We Live In Peaceful Times

November is the month of remembrance. There are two reasons for this in my mind, and our worship and public life together.

I heard some statistics recently, taken from a Harvard lecture by the journalist and author Fareed Zakaria (in May 2012). We are probably living through one of the most profoundly peaceful times of human history. None of the richest countries of the world are engaged in fighting one another, in arms races, or even 'cold' wars. I quote directly:

"The number of people who have died as a result of war, civil war, and, yes, terrorism, is down 50 percent this decade from the 1990s. It is down 75 percent from the preceding five decades, the decades of the Cold War, and it is, of course, down 99 percent from the decade before that, which is World War II. Steven Pinker says that we are living in the most peaceful times in human history."

We may be used to seeing bombs go off on the news most days, footage caught on mobile phones, but compared to the lifetimes of our oldest living friends, these are most peaceful times. Let us as we remember those who have died, be grateful for the peace in which we now live.

Secondly, our evening service on November 10th will be a service of remembrance and thanksgiving for the relatives of those who have died. We will invite all those for whom Christchurch and its ministers have conducted a funeral and read the names of those remembered. A gentle and quiet service, but one which simply acknowledges that people are walking through grief and sadness, and need to both mark some of the steps and join with others who are walking a similar journey.

The God who was silent when Jesus died, is the God who crept into humanity through a baby's birth; who often refused the psalmist words but heard his cries; who confused the nations with the babble of the tower that tried to reach to the skies, and yet in the breath of the Holy Spirit brought the gifts of tongues, understanding, and above all, love, the most powerful language of all.

Whatever you will remember this month, I pray God may be found in the quietness created around the memories.

Godbless

Rob

