

A SHORT AT HOME SERVICE FOR VE DAY 2020



Introduction

Heaviness may endure for a night:

But joy comes in the morning.

God has been our refuge and our strength:

A present help in time of trouble.

Although separated physically, we join our hearts together on this day to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe, when the sounds of war fell silent on this continent.

We remember the many soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, and we give thanks for the years of peace that the nations of Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War.

We are conscious that the peace we enjoy today should never be taken for granted, and so we ask that God will continue to deliver us and all people from the desire to dominate and exploit others which still to this day leads to conflict between people, and to war between nations.

And we celebrate today, as did those who gathered on that first Victory day, glad of our sense of community, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss.

Verses from the Bible

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Matthew 5:9

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

John 14.27

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

1 John 1.5

Prayers

O Lord our God, as we remember, teach us the ways of peace. As we treasure memories, teach us to hope. As we give thanks for the sacrifices of the past, help us to make your future in this world, until your kingdom come. Amen.

A Traditional Collect for Peace

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle in the hearts of all people the true love of peace; and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Traditional Prayer for the Sovereign

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth, and all who are in authority under her; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.
And 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.

An Act of Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women, that we may help, encourage and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

[Silence]

Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always. **Amen.**

A Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us;
May the Lord make His face shine upon us,
And be gracious to us;
May the Lord lift up His countenance upon us,
And give us peace.
Amen.

