

An Act of Worship to Commemorate the

75th Anniversary

of

VE Day

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this Service of Thanksgiving,

Prayer and Rededication

Heaviness may endure for a night

But joy comes in the morning

Heavenly Father, at this time in our troubled world, we pause, and come before You, to give thanks and praise for the end of the War in Europe in 1945.

We acknowledge and seek forgiveness for the sinful impulses which lead to conflict amongst people, and war amongst nations.

We remember with love and thanksgiving the members of the Armed Forces who gave their lives or were injured restraining evil, and overcoming tyranny.

We lament those civilian men women and children who died and were injured amidst the carnage of armed conflict.

We give thanks and praise for the years of peace and prosperity that the nations of Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War.

And we come to pray for, and to dedicate ourselves anew to World Peace and international cooperation, that your Kingdom of Reconciliation, Love, Justice and Peace may come here on earth as it is in Heaven.

These prayers, praises and thanksgivings we offer up in the words which Our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us

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.

Words of Scripture

Jesus said:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

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

Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3-10

And He shall judge among many people,
and rebuke strong nations afar off;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks:
nation shall not lift up a sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

Micah 3

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
old things have passed away;
behold, all things have become new.
Now all things are of God,
who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,
that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses
to them,
and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5

An Act of Remembrance for the Fallen

We keep Silence

They shall grow not 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

Rest Eternal grant unto them O Lord
And let light perpetual shine upon them

Amen

A Prayer for the Peace of the World

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, 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 your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all people; we bless you for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your inestimable love in the redemption of the world through our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace; and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us that due sense of all your mercies, that our hearts may be truly thankful and that we may declare your praise not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing

The Peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of His Son Jesus Christ Our Lord: and the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be amongst us and remain with us and upon all those for whom we pray, this day and evermore.

Amen