

GARROWBYBENEFICE



**A SERVICE OF
CELEBRATION FOR
VE DAY
AND IN THANKSGIVING
FOR ALL ON THE
FRONT LINE TODAY**



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Greeting and Introduction

Heaviness may endure for a night:

All But joy comes in the morning.

God has been our refuge and our strength:

All A present help in time of trouble.

Dear friends, we have come together on this day to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe, when the sounds of war fell silent on this continent.

We come together conscious of our need for God's forgiveness for the sin and the desire to dominate others that leads to conflict between people, and war between nations.

And as we remember the many soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, so we also come in thanksgiving for the years of peace that the nations of Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War. We gather joyfully today, as those who gathered on that first Victory day, glad of each other and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss.

At this time we also remember the many service women and men serving today to support the work of the NHS and other keyworkers in our country in the fight against Coronavirus and those who are still serving in places of conflict throughout the world seeking to build peace.

But above all things, let us pray that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven, as we join our voices together and say:

**All 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.**

Hymn: I vow to thee my country

Readings

The reading from the Old Testament is from Micah 4.1–4

Peace and Security through Obedience

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

The reading from the New Testament is from 2 Corinthians 5.16–21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Sermon

Prayers

ending with saying together

**All Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest, to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labour and not to ask for any reward; except that of knowing that we do thy will. Amen.**

Prayer of Saint Ignatius

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.

**All 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.**

VE Day: a poem by Angela Wybrow

It really was the most brilliant day:
It was 1945; it was the 8th of May;
It is a date, forever remembered,
As the day when Germany finally surrendered.

The war across Europe had come to an end:
A war in which many had lost family or friend;
It was a day of much celebration
In towns and cities across many a nation.

Very soon after they had heard the great news,
Communities came together and really let loose;
Folk, they rejoiced: there was a great atmosphere,
With many a pub running right out of beer.

Raucous revellers filled Trafalgar Square,
Where hugs and kisses, with strangers, were shared.
As, on the Palace balcony, King George appeared,
The massed crowds below him chanted and cheered.

Soldiers and sailors were dancing the Conga:
The line, which they formed, growing longer and longer;
People danced in the streets and danced in the parks -
They danced and they danced until way after dark.

From out of folks' windows, lights dared to glow,
And many a gallon of cheap champagne flowed.
A kaleidoscope of colour lit up the night -
As did blazing bonfires, which were burning so bright.

People held parties right there in the street,
With sweet and savoury dishes laid out to eat;
There was Homity pie, and Corned Beef Hash,
Bread with Beef Dripping, and Faggots with mash.

There were Glory buns, Welsh cakes, and bread, spread with jam,
Apple Brown Betty, Plum Charlotte, and even Prune flan;
There were scones, carrot cookies, and eggless Fruit Cake,
Rock buns, Jam Tarts - all hastily baked.

The war had raged on for almost six years,
And, during that time, it had caused terror and tears;
It was a day of thanksgiving; a day of relief,
But, for some, just another day of deep rooted grief.

The people of Europe were finally free,
And many a face was shining with glee;
At the Western Front, the fighting had ceased,
And, all throughout Europe, there was now, much welcomed, peace.

Hymn: I the Lord of Sea and Sky

Responsory

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.

All Amen.

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.

All Amen.

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Lady,
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.

All Amen.

The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the
Queen, the Commonwealth,
and all people, peace and concord;
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
come down upon you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

The National Anthem

Closing reflection

Music: Last night I had the strangest dream

Music credits

He ain't heavy he's my brother: *Peter Howarth*; <https://www.peterhowarth.com/>

We'll meet again: *The Tasty Mooresels*; <https://www.abimoore.com> & <https://www.facebook.com/thisisabimoore>

Hymn: I vow to thee my country

Bring him home: *Josh Groban*; <https://www.joshgroban.com/>

Hymn: **I the Lord of Sea and Sky**; *RingsTrue*; <https://www.facebook.com/ringstrue/>

The National Anthem

Last night I had the strangest dream: *John Denver*; <https://johndenver.com/>