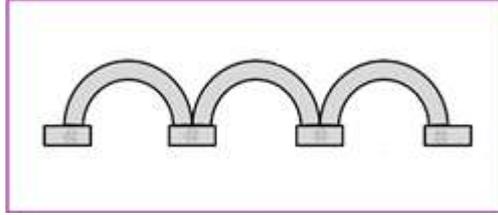


THE MEON BRIDGE BENEFICE



A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

IN

COMMEMORATION

OF

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

OF

VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY



VE DAY

75TH ANNIVERSARY

Although Socially Separated:

A Profound Moment of Thanksgiving

8 - 10 MAY 2020

Sunday 10th May 2020

10.30 am

but available from the evening of 8th May 2020

at www.meonchurches.org.

“As a family we have discussed many times in the past few weeks how blessed we are that we have only 'suffered' the inconvenience of having to stay at home and enjoy our beautiful surroundings in a daily stroll. Compared to the constant threat of being bombed out during the Blitz or the unimaginable horrors of serving through Dunkerque or D Day, we have very little to moan about and everything to be thankful for.”

In correspondence from a Benefice Resident
to the Rector
6th May 2020

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this service of thanksgiving and commemoration on the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe. Churches throughout the land played a full part on the day itself, as they had in other countries as each was liberated from the tyranny of Nazism in turn.

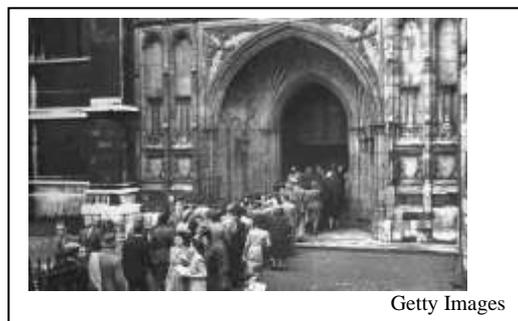
Unlike 1945, when the population poured out into the streets, we engage in this shared moment of celebration in 'Lockdown' and although many of our friends and neighbours in Europe are emerging from strict rules of isolation this momentous celebration will take many different forms – different from each other and very different from what had been planned. We should also bear in mind that there casualties right up to the end of the war in Europe, that there were enclaves of German troops who refused to give up fortified positions, and that many families received telegrams notifying them that a loved one had been killed in action in the days that followed VE Day. We must also be acutely aware that bitter and bloody warfare continued to rage in the Far East on land, sea and in the air until the eventual surrender of the Japanese in August. There is now friendship, collaboration and peace in Europe and former enemies are now our allies and global partners. And whilst today we can take peace across Europe and collaboration and partnership between the nations of the 'West' almost for granted, victory over the fascist axis brought exuberant outpourings of relief, joy and new hope in May 1945.



After making his public broadcast officially announcing Germany's total surrender, the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, went to the House of Commons to make a short address and then moved that the House attend at the Church of St Margaret in Westminster, the Parish Church of the House of Commons, to 'give humble and reverent thanks to almighty God for our deliverance from the threat of German domination.' The House then rose and followed the Speaker to the Church.

The Prime Minister's broadcast to the nation was captured by the BBC, Pathé News, British Movietone News and others and Associated Press have published this on-line with some footage of the ensuing celebrations (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEavcsrMoMw>).

In Westminster Abbey, short services of thanksgiving were held every hour from 9.00 am to 10.00 pm on VE Day and our service today has been influenced by these and by the 50th and 70th anniversary celebrations. Some 25,000 people attended the short services and millions more went to their own parish church or diocesan cathedral. How different this is from these times of 'Lockdown' with tea parties at home instead of Street Parties and streamed services from some of our cathedrals.



Getty Images

Services in 1945 offered 'high praise and thanksgiving to the God of all mercies for the success which He has granted to us and to our Allies: for the faith which has upheld us through the years of danger and suffering; for the skill of our leaders and the valour and steadfastness of sailors, soldiers and airmen; for the hope that we are about to enter upon a righteous and abiding peace; for the holy memory and high example of that great company of men and women, known and unknown, whose faith and courage God has inspired and used.'¹

Today with the nation, we give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies, and pray for world peace. Today, we too can offer 'high praise and thanksgiving to the God of all mercies for' the peace and prosperity 'which He has granted to us', to Europe, and indeed much of Asia with some desperately sad exceptions, over the last 75 years.

The Reverend Antony Forrest
Rector of the Parishes of Corhampton and Meonstoke cum Exton and Droxford.

¹ Said of the services held in Westminster Abbey.

The Front Pages of the 1945 Services in Westminster Abbey

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

A SHORT THANKSGIVING FOR VICTORY

The congregation are asked to join heartily in the responses.

"The Lord hath done great things for us, which ought to be had in remembrance."

Let us therefore offer high praise and thanksgiving to the God of all mercies for the success which He has granted to us and to our Allies : for the faith which has upheld us through years of danger and suffering : for the skill of our leaders and the valour and steadfastness of sailors, soldiers and airmen : for the hope that we are about to enter upon a righteous and abiding peace: for the holy memory and high example of that great company of men and women, known and unknown, whose faith and courage God has inspired and used.

Minister : *O give thanks unto the Lord for He is gracious.*

People : *And His mercy endureth for ever*

Minister : *Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy Name give the praise*

People : *For thy loving mercy and for thy truth's sake*

Minister : *In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God*

People : *He heard my voice out of his holy temple, and my cry came even unto His ears*

Minister : *Let them give thanks whom the Lord hath redeemed*

People : *And delivered from the hands of the enemy*

Minister : *Glory be the Father, etc.*

People : *As it was in the beginning, etc.*

Let us Pray

(The congregation shall remain standing)

To Thee, O Lord, the Champion Leader of Thy people, do we Thy servants ascribe thankoffering of victory, for Thou hast delivered us in the cloudy and dark day. And as Thou hast invincible power, let the design of Thy great love lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows ; and give peace to Thy Church, peace among nations, peace in our dwellings and peace in our hearts. We ask it in the name of the Victorious Christ, Thy Son our Blessed Lord. *Amen.*

Here may be sung the Doxology or some other hymn of praise

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ;

Praise him, all creatures here below ;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host ;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

[Form I]

THANKSGIVING FOR VICTORY

ORDER OF SERVICE

May 8 1945

The Clergy and choir having taken their places, the congregation shall stand and sing the first verse of

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious King,
 Long live our noble King,
 God save the King!
 Send him victorious,
 Happy and glorious,
 Long to reign over us,
 God save the King!

The congregation still standing, the Minister shall say

THE BIDDING

BRETHREN, we are met together on this day to pour out our hearts in fervent thanksgiving to the God and Father of us all, and to dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of his Kingdom. We desire to thank him for deliverance from the hand of our enemies; for the devotion, even to death, of those who for the five years past have stood between us and slavery; and for the hopes of a better world for all his people. I bid you, therefore, lift up your hearts that you may tell the praises of our God, and pray that his wisdom may lead us, and his Spirit strengthen us, in the days that are to come.

Minister Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us:

People but unto thy Name give the praise.

Minister The Lord hath done great things for us already

People whereof we rejoice.

Minister Praise the Lord, O my soul:

People and forget not all his benefits.

HYMN

"Praise my Soul"

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
 To his feet thy tribute bring.
 Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
 Evermore his praises sing.
 Praise him! Praise him!
 Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
 To our fathers in distress;
 Praise him still the same for ever,
 Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
 Praise him! Praise him!
 Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
 Well our feeble frame he knows;
 In his hands he gently bears us,
 Rescues us from all our foes.
 Praise him! Praise him!
 Widely yet his mercy flows.

Angels help us to adore him;
 Ye behold him face to face;
 Sun and moon, bow down before him;
 Dwellers all in time and space.
 Praise him! Praise him!
 Praise with us the God of grace.

When shall the Minister say,

Now bless the Lord your God.

Then, the congregation having knelt down, shall be said

THE THANKSGIVINGS

Minister We give thanks to thee, O Lord our Father:

For the call to do battle for the right,
 For the unity of nation and empire,
 For the maintenance of faith and hope in the darkest days,

People We thank thee, O Lord.

HISTORICAL NOTE²

On 8th May 1945, the Allied Powers formally accepted the unconditional surrender of the Armed Forces of Nazi Germany and the end of the Third Reich. Adolf Hitler had committed suicide on 30th April during the Battle of Berlin. The surrender of Germany was therefore authorised by his successor, Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz (16 September 1891 – 24 December 1980), and the Instrument of Surrender was signed at Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force at Reims on 7th May. This surrender was formally ratified the next day.

More than one million people converged on the streets of the United Kingdom. In London, people thronged the city's streets and monuments. Winston Churchill made a radio broadcast at 3.00 pm announcing that war in Europe was finally at an end.

Across the land street-parties were thrown with fancy dress parades for the children, and many people went to church to give thanks to God for victory.

Huge crowds, many dressed in red, white and blue, gathered outside Buckingham Palace and St James's Palace. Famously, the crowds cheered as the King, the Queen, and Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret Rose appeared eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace over the day and into the evening, at one point joined by Winston Churchill.

In the evening, many London landmarks, such as the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, and Nelson's Column, were floodlit specially for the occasion. On the day, crowds sang a popular song which expressed this joyous return to light: 'I'm going to get lit up when the lights go up in London'. Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret—escorted by Guards Officers—left the palace and mingled anonymously with the great crowds outside, joining in the celebrations.

Over the course of the day, Churchill delivered two short speeches from the balcony of the Ministry of Health building to the crowds in Whitehall. In the first he told them: 'This is your victory!', to which they roared back: 'No! It's yours!'. And during his second appearance at 10.30 pm, he conducted the crowds in the singing of 'Land of Hope and Glory'.

The exuberance of the day was tempered by the fact that, for many, this would be a time of sadness and reflection, and that because of the ongoing war in Japan, many other parts of the world would not be able to join in the celebrations. It would not be until the Japanese surrendered to the Allies on 15th August, now known as Victory over Japan (VJ) Day, that the Second World War would finally come to an end.

Today, in marking the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe, we look back with pride and respect at the remarkable generation of men and women who helped secure peace and freedom. We thank God for that whole generation and for the longest peace in Europe in recorded history.

² Source: Westminster Abbey and Movietone Newsreel (Associated Press on-line)

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE:

‘Sanctuary’ by Beanstalk.

MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE:

Doxology

Thomas Ken;

OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois,
a tune from Hymnal: Genevan Psalter, (1551)
created under the supervision of John Calvin;
Performance: Richard M S Irwin.

Praise my soul the King of Heaven

Henry Francis Lyte;

LAUDA ANIMA, John Goss;

Performance: Clyde McLennan.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Horatius Bonar;

KINGSFOLD, Traditional English melody;

Performance: Richard M S Irwin.

Now Thank We All Our God

Martin Rinkart, Translator: Catherine Winkworth;

NUN DANKET, Johann Crüger, Harmony: William Henry Monk;

Performance: Richard M S Irwin.

Before Th’almighty Father’s Throne

Isaac Watts;

OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois,
a tune from Hymnal: Genevan Psalter, (1551)
created under the supervision of John Calvin;
Performance: Richard M S Irwin.

The National Anthem

Verses 1 and 2 unknown but attributed to Henry Carey, from Thesaurus Musicus (1744);
verse 3 William E Hickson;

Performance: Richard M S Irwin

MUSIC AFTER THE SERVICE:

A Short Medley of themes from the 1940s played by Cathy Mathews

ORDER OF SERVICE

The Rector gives:

THE BIDDING

ON Victory in Europe Day seventy-five years ago, countless people attended services of thanksgiving in cathedrals and parish churches, just like ours. We today share the spirit of that day of rejoicing, albeit in our own homes in this time of social separation but in union of spirit.

We give thanks for the valour and bravery of the sailors, soldiers, airmen, and civilians who gave all they had, and for the determination and skill of their leaders. We pray that the peace they won through victory over evil cruelty and oppression may be, for this age, a blessing for all of us in the Meon Valley, for the United Kingdom as a whole, for Europe and for the whole world.

Humbly, we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives.

As the service begins, a wreath is laid at the Rectory and which will be taken to each of the Parish churches with Paschal candles on their re-opening.



Silence is kept.

The Rector says in the words of the 1945 Short Thanksgiving:

The congregation are asked to join heartily in the responses.

"The Lord hath done great things for us, which ought to be had in remembrance."

Let us therefore offer high praise and thanksgiving to the God of all mercies of the success which He has granted to us and to our allies: for the faith which has upheld us through years of danger and suffering: for the skill of our leaders and the valour and steadfastness of sailors, soldiers and airmen: for the hope that we are about to enter upon a righteous and abiding peace: for the holy memory and high example of that great company of men and women, known and unknown, whose faith and courage God has inspired and used.

Minister: *O give thanks unto the Lord for He is gracious.*

People: And His mercy endureth for ever,

Minister: *Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy Name give the praise*

People: For thy loving mercy and for thy truth's sake

Minister: *In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God*

**People: He heard my voice out of his holy Temple,
and my cry came even unto His ears**

Minister: *Let them give thanks whom the Lord hath redeemed*

People: And delivered from the hands of the enemy

Minister: *Glory be to thee Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost*

People: As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

THANKSGIVING ON THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE-DAY

To Thee, O Lord, the Champion Leader of Thy people, do we Thy servants ascribe thanksoffering of victory, for thou hast delivered us in the cloudy and dark day. And as Thou hast invincible power, let us deign of Thy great love lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows; and give peace to Thy church, peace among nations, peace in our dwellings and peace in our hearts. We ask it in the name of the Victorious Christ, Thy Son our Blessed Lord. Amen.

Here may be sung the Doxology.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

OLD HUNDREDTH
Louis Bourgeois

Thomas Ken
Performance: Richard M S Irwin

The Rector says:

Inspired by the remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice and of those who continue who to lay themselves in harm's way for our sake, and the grace of peace granted to the world, let us pray for the coming of God's reign among us as Jesus himself has 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.

THANKSGIVING ON THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE-DAY

As sung in the 1945 Thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey

All sing

THE HYMN

- 1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the everlasting King.
- 2 Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia,
glorious in his faithfulness.
- 3 Father-like, he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia, alleluia,
widely as his mercy flows.
- 4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on:
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the high eternal One.
- 5 Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise with us the God of grace.

LAUDA ANIMA

John Goss (1800-1880)

Descant:

Leonard James Blake (1906-1989)

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

Recorded by Clyde McLennan

Mrs Angela Peagram, Churchwarden, reads

ISAIAH 58: 6–9A, 11–12

IS not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 107: 1-16

GIVE thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious:
and his mercy endureth for ever.

Let them give thanks whom the Lord hath redeemed:
and delivered from the hand of the enemy;

and gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west:
from the north, and from the south.

They went astray in the wilderness out of the way:
and found no city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty: their soul fainted in them.

So they cried unto the Lord in their trouble:
and he delivered them from their distress.

He led them forth by the right way:
that they might go to the city where they dwelt.

O that men would therefore praise the Lord for his goodness:
and declare the wonders that he doeth for the children of men.

For he satisfieth the empty soul:
and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

Such as sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death:
being fast bound in misery and iron;

because they rebelled against the words of the Lord:
and lightly regarded the counsel of the most Highest;

he also brought down their heart through heaviness:
they fell down, and there was none to help them.

So when they cried unto the Lord in their trouble:
he delivered them out of their distress.

For he brought them out of darkness, and out of the shadow of death:
and brake their bonds in sunder.

O that men would therefore praise the Lord for his goodness:
and declare the wonders that he doeth for the children of men.

For he hath broken the gates of brass:
and smitten the bars of iron in sunder.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.**

Mr Richard Pepys, Churchwarden, reads

ROMANS 8: 31–39

WHAT shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thanks be to God

All sing

THE HYMN



- 1 I HEARD the voice of Jesus say,
‘Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast.’
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.
- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down, and drink, and live.’
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.
- 3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.’
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till travelling days are done.

KINGSFOLD

Traditional English melody

Adapted by

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

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Horatius Bonar (1808–89)
Performed by Richard M S Irwin

THE ADDRESS

By the Rector

The Reverend Antony Forrest

Let us give thanks to almighty God for the victory which brought peace to Europe, for the reconciliation of former enemies, and for the task of promoting peace and goodwill among all people.

Other exhortations to offer thanks may be made

Mr Christopher Maxse reads

**AN EXTRACT FROM THE
VE DAY SPEECH OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI**

TODAY we give thanks to almighty God for a great deliverance. Speaking from our Empire's oldest capital city, war-battered but never for one moment daunted or dismayed—speaking from London, I ask you to join with me in that act of thanksgiving.

There is great comfort in the thought that the years of darkness and danger in which the children of our country have grown up are over and, please God, for ever. We shall have failed and the blood of our dearest will have flowed in vain if the victory which they died to win does not lead to a lasting peace, founded on justice and good will.

This is the task to which now honour binds us. In the hour of danger, we humbly committed our cause into the hand of God and he has been our strength and shield. Let us thank him for his mercies and in this hour of victory commit ourselves and our new task to the guidance of that same strong hand.



The King may be seen reading his speech at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ww9CcPUU9dw>

All sing

THE HYMN

- 1 Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.
- 2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.
- 3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

NUN DANKET

Johann Crüger (1598 -- 1662)

Harmony:

William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Source:

Praxis Pietatis Melica, 1647; Lobgesang, 1840

Nun danket alle Gott
Martin Rinkart (1586-1649)

Translator:
Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS

WE praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.

To thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein.
To thee Cherubin and Seraphin continually do cry,

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.

The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.

**The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee,
the Father, of an infinite majesty;
thine honourable, true, and only Son, also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.**

Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ;
thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.

When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,
thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.

When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our Judge.

We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy saints, in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine heritage.
Govern them and lift them up for ever.

Day by day we magnify thee,
and we worship thy Name ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee.

O Lord, in thee have I trusted;
let me never be confounded.

THE PRAYERS

Trusting the promises of God, and with faith in his mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

LET us give thanks for the selfless and courageous service and sacrifice of those who brought peace to Europe, and for the good example they have given us; let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

WE pray for nations still devastated by war, for their people and their leaders, and for those who suffer the effects or memories of past wars; for veterans, for those who mourn, and for all innocent victims whose lives have been shattered by the cruelty of others; Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

LET us give thanks for those who work for security, peace and liberty throughout the world, for Her Majesty's Armed Forces and the emergency services, and for all who strive to bring an end to injustice and oppression; let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

WE pray for those in our own day who have grown weary or lost hope as a result of violence or terror; for all refugees and displaced people, and for those who seek to address the causes of discord and distrust; Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

LET us give thanks in this time of anxiety, for those who comfort the fearful, tend the sick, and assure the isolated; let us give thanks for the skill, sympathy and resilience shown daily by all who are caring for the sick, and for the wisdom and perseverance of those searching for a cure for CoViD-19; let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

WE pray, in this time of Pandemic, for all those who are ill, afraid or in isolation; for the anxious and fearful, and those who are brought low; for ancillary staff, for chaplains, for cleaners, for doctors, for nurses and all other healthcare professionals, we pray for carers and managers in hospitals, surgeries and residential homes; and, we pray for biomedical scientists and technicians; Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

LET us give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies, for the flourishing of goodwill between them, and for the many blessings we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace; let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

WE pray for the young people of our own day and for all who will shape the future of our world, that they may be inspired by those who have gone before them to serve as they have been served; Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

THANKSGIVING ON THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE-DAY

VERSES FROM PSALM 136 – THE PSALM USED ON 8TH MAY 1945

GIVE thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious:
for his mercy endureth for ever.

O thank the Lord of all lords:
for his mercy endureth for ever.

Who only doeth great wonders:
for his mercy endureth for ever.

And hath delivered us from our enemies:
for his mercy endureth for ever.

O give thanks unto the God of heaven:
for his mercy endureth for ever.

O give thanks unto the Lord of lords:
for his mercy endureth for ever.



WORDS OF THE PRAYER SAID

IN THE HOURLY SERVICES OF THANKSGIVING ON 8TH MAY 1945

Eternal God, in whose kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, and no strength known but the strength of love: We pray thee so mightily to shed and spread abroad thy Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under one banner, of the Prince of Peace; as children of one God and Father of all; to whom be the dominion and glory now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

With heartfelt gratitude to God our Father and seeking the peace of Christ's kingdom, let us pray together:

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE ACT OF REDEDICATION

THEY fought for peace, that the world might never again know such violence and destruction.

WILL you work for peace and reconciliation in your homes and communities, and promote peace throughout the world?
With the help of God, we will.

THEY fought for justice, that the scourge of prejudice and oppression might never again take root in our societies.

WILL you work for a world in which hatred and injustice never have the final word, and where all people can flourish with dignity and hope?
With the help of God, we will.

THEY struggled so that the whole human family might know good will, security, and freedom.

WILL you always acknowledge how precious are the gifts which God has entrusted to us, and exercise the freedoms and responsibilities you have with gratitude and humility?
With the help of God, we will.



[This Photo](#) of the CWGC Cemetery in Berlin licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

MAY Almighty God, who has given us the will to undertake these things, bless us with the strength to perform them. Amen.

All sing

THE CLOSING HYMN AS AT THE SERVICE ON 8TH MAY 1945 IN WESTMINSTER ABBY

- 1 Before th'almighty Father's throne,
ye nations, bow with sacred joy;
know that the Lord is God alone:
he can create, and he destroy.
- 2 His sovereign power, without our aid,
made us of clay, and formed us then;
and, when like wandering sheep we strayed,
he brought us to his fold again.
- 3 We'll crowd thy gates with thankful songs,
high as the heavens our voices raise;
and earth, with her ten thousand tongues,
shall fill thy courts with sounding praise.
- 4 Wide as the world is thy command,
vast as eternity thy love;
firm as a rock thy truth must stand,
when rolling years shall cease to move.

OLD HUNDREDTH
Louis Bourgeois (c.1510 – c.1561)
Genevan Psalter, (1551)
created under the supervision of John Calvin

Before Jehovah's awful throne
Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
Performed by Richard M S Irwin

The Rector pronounces

THE BLESSING

GOD grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us sinners, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

CLOSING ACT

The Last Post is sounded

The Silence is kept.



Reveille is sounded.

Please pray for continuing peace and ever greater understanding
between the peoples of the world



The UN was established after World War II with the aim of preventing future wars, succeeding the ineffective League of Nations. On 25 April 1945, before hostilities ceased, fifty governments met in San Francisco for a conference and started drafting the UN Charter, which was adopted on 25 June 1945 and took effect on 24 October 1945, when the UN began operations.

In order to fulfil the Charter, the organization's objectives include maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development, and upholding international law.

At its founding, the UN had 51 member states; this number grew to 193 in 2011, representing the vast majority of the world's sovereign states.

Our service closes with

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

GOD save our gracious Queen.
Long live our noble Queen.
God save The Queen.
Send her victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save The Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store
on her be pleased to pour.
Long may she reign.
May she defend our laws
and ever give us cause
to sing with heart and voice:
God save the Queen

Not on this land alone,
but be God's mercies known
from shore to shore.
Lord, make the nations see
that all should brothers be
and form one family
the wide world o'er.

NATIONAL ANTHEM
from Thesaurus Musicus c 1743



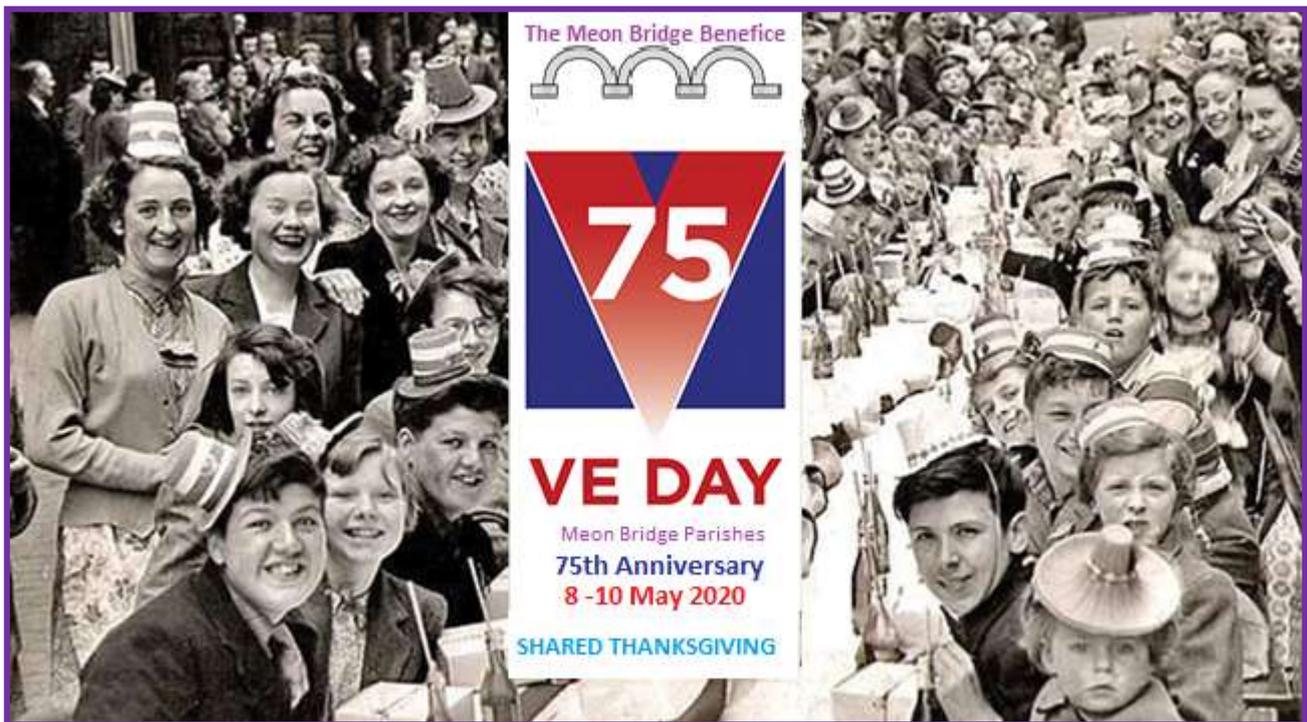
Vv 1 &2 anonymous
attributed to Henry Carey (1689 – 1743)
V 3 W E Hickson (1803–70)

THE FIRING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

Both bells of Meonstoke church will be fired (struck simultaneously) seventy-five times on VJ Day in August.

It is planned that a lone piper will play *The Battle's O'er* on that day too.

Church bells were fired in celebration throughout the United Kingdom on 8th May 1945.



Marking the 75th anniversary

Although churches in the UK are currently closed and the Benefice can no longer hold the public service as planned on 10th May, so in addition to this webcast service we share the following resources to help you mark the day:

- **BBC One** will show coverage of the official commemorative events live (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000hyvj>) from 2.45pm on 8th May.
- **Her Majesty The Queen** will address the nation (<https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/her-majesty-the-queen-to-send-a-message-to-the-nation-to-mark-75th-anniversary-of-ve-day>) on BBC One at 9.00pm, the exact moment her father, King George VI, gave a radio address in 1945.
- **A special edition of the Westminster Abbey podcast, Abbeycast** (<https://www.westminster-abbey.org/podcast>), will be released at 9.00am on 8th May
- Sunday, May 10, 2020, 11:00 AM 12:00 PM: *A service of commemoration and remembrance to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day* from **Portsmouth Cathedral** available at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4zEN3h94eid7Gb-2Nvhotw>.
- **The government's VEDay75 website** has creative ways to mark the anniversary (<https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk>).

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Music Before the Service

Sanctuary by Beanstalk used under licence.

Doxology

Performance: Richard M S Irwin.

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UKTU21900041

Praise my soul the King of Heaven

Performance: Clyde McLennan.

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I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

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Now Thank We All Our God

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Before Th'almighty Father's Throne

Performance: Richard M S Irwin.

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The National Anthem

Performance: Richard M S Irwin

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The Last Post and Reveille

Performance: Dorian Kelly

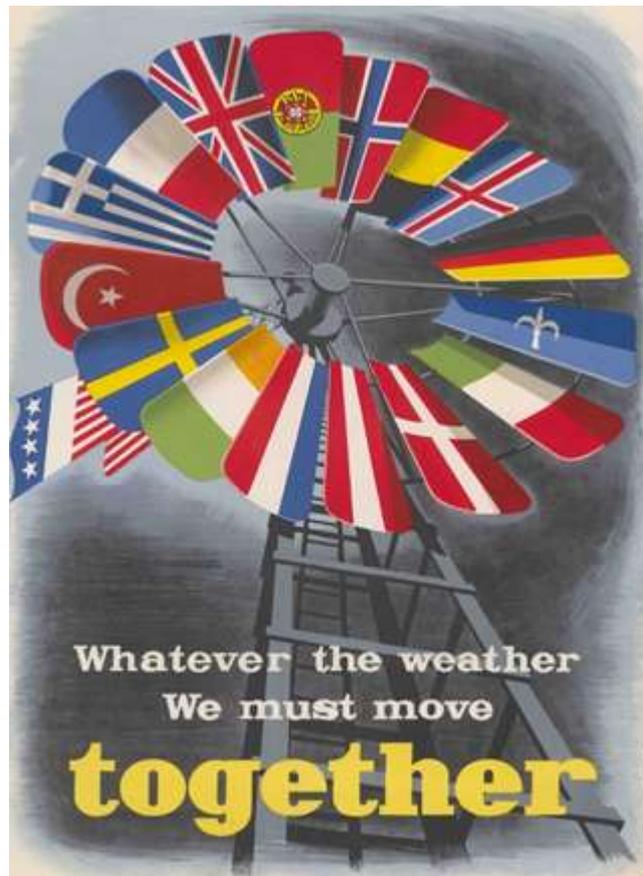
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Medley of Music from the 1940s

Cathy Mathews

CCLI: 182525

Please pray for continuing peace and ever greater understanding
between the peoples of the world



A NATO Poster from 1950

NATO now consists of 30 member states from North America and Europe. It was established at the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty on 4 April 1949.

NATO has 12 original founding member nation states. Between 1952 and 1955, it added three more member nations, and a fourth in 1982.

Between 1999 and 27 March 2020, in the era following then end of the Cold War, NATO has added 14 more member nations, from the former Warsaw Pact and the former Yugoslav republics.

