

ST. MARY & ALL SAINTS



SERVICE

The Greeting and Introduction

Hymn: Praise my Soul the King of Heaven

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's company, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss. 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.**

Reading 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Responsory

Your salvation is near to those who fear you,

All: That glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

All: That glory may dwell in our land.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

All: Your salvation is near to those who fear you, that glory may dwell in our land.

ADDRESS

Prayers:

O God of truth and justice,
we hold before you those men and women
who have died in active service,
particularly in the Second World War,
whose sacrifice brought Victory in Europe.
As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our
faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope

O Lord God of Hosts,
stretch forth, we pray, your almighty arm
to strengthen and protect our service men and women. Support them in
times of conflict, and in their rest and training keep them safe from all
evil; endue them with courage and loyalty; and grant that in all things
they may serve without reproach.

O God, who would fold both heaven and earth
in a single peace; that the design of your great love lighten
upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows;

give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our dwellings and peace in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.
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.**

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.
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.

National Anthem