All Saints' Church, Sanderstead

Sunday 10 May 2020

Extending God's Welcome to All. Committed to Grow – in Discipleship, Service and Numbers.

Parish Praise

Marking 75 years since "Victory in Europe"



A warm welcome in the name of Jesus Christ! This weekend was to be a special weekend of celebration to mark VE Day - victory in Europe - 75 years ago. All sorts of things had been planned, but sadly Coronavirus intervened and we find ourselves in "Lockdown". Our buildings are closed, but the Church is still worshipping! Today, we not only mark the victory that brought war in Europe to an end, but we celebrate the victory our risen Lord Jesus Christ has won over death.

Introduction and Opening Prayer

SONG - In Christ alone

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIZGRydoUpQ

IN CHRIST ALONE my hope is found,

He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe. This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied For every sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Stuart Townend

Churchill's VE Day speech, 8 May 1945

Recited, with images, by David Chillman

Readings

Isaiah 58: 6-9a, 11-12

6 'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?
7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?
8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.
9 Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: here am I.

¹¹ The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame.

You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Romans 7:25, 8:28-end

²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

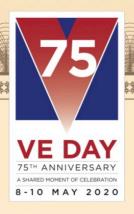
More than conquerors

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

'For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Poem, read by Elaine Leck



VEDAY

75 "ANNIVERSARY
A MARKE MORROW OF CELLINATION
B - 10 MAY 2020

Unmentioned in Despatches

Some of them never come home to fanfares, they dump their kit-bags down at the door, kiss their wives and let their children wrestle them down to the kitchen floor, switch the telly on, pour out a whiskey, search for the local football score.

Some of them skip the quayside welcome, dodge the bunting and cannonade, make their landfall in silent harbours, nod to the coastguard, but evade the searchlight of public scrutiny like those engaged in the smuggling trade.

Some of them land at lonely airfields far removed from the celebration, hang their flying gear in a locker, cadge a lift to the railway station, make for home and take for granted the short-lived thanks of a grateful nation.

Some of them miss the royal salute, the victory parade along the Mall, the fly-past, the ships in formation passing the cheering crowds on the harbour wall. Remembered only by friends and relatives, some of them never come home at all.

Poet: Peter Wyton Some of their they dump to kiss their wrestle the switch the search of the dodge to make the nod to the sea like those of the short-line.

Some of far rem hang to cadge a make for the short-line. Some of the vicin the fly-past the cheering Remembers some of the some of

Talk, by Revd Jeremy Groombridge

Prayers, led by Sarah Jane Sherlock

As we come to our time of prayer, I invite you to say with me the words in bold. 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 peace and liberty throughout the world, for the Armed Forces of the Crown, 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 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 this nation, 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.

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

Thanks be to God.

For our own situation during this Coronavirus, we pray for healing for those who are unwell, for comfort for those who are bereaved, for wisdom for our leaders, and for your protection to be upon us all; Lord hear us

Lord, graciously hear us.

In a moment of quiet, let us remember all those who are on our hearts at this time...

At this time, we cannot meet in church. But in our homes, wherever we are, let us say together the prayer our Saviour taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

May almighty God, who has given us the will to undertake these things, bless us with the strength to perform them.

Amen.

CONCLUSION

Peace be with us.
God's quiet within the noise,
God's hope within uncertainty
God's rest within the toil,
God's presence within our souls.

The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.



CONCLUDING HYMN – Because He lives

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4M-zwE33zHA

GOD SENT HIS SON THEY CALLED HIM JESUS,

He came to love, heal and forgive, He lived and died to buy my pardon, An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

> Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, Because He lives, all fear is gone, Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby, And feel the pride and joy he brings, But greater still the calm assurance This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river...
I'll <u>fight</u> life's <u>final</u> war with pain,
And then, as <u>death</u> gives way to victory,
I'll see the <u>lights</u> of <u>glory</u> and I'll know He reigns.

Kristin Chenoweth

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On Tuesday, 8th May, 1945, the Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, formally announced the end of the European War in the House of Commons, and a similar announcement was made in the House of Lords.

After the announcement had been made, Mr. Speaker invited M.P.s to follow him in procession to St. Margaret's, Westminster, for a Thanksgiving Service. The Serjeant-at-Arms, carrying the mace, walked in front of the Speaker at the head of the procession followed by Privy Councillors. Walking four abreast, Junior Ministers and the rank and file M.P.s followed. After the service the procession returned to the House of Commons.

Prominent Buildings Illuminated

BIG BEN

THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

NELSON'S COLUMN

AND

ALL TOWN HALLS IN LONDON.

Searchlight Display

London Region H.Q. will give a seachlight display over Central London to-night from 11.45 p.m. to 12.15 a.m. and again to-morrow night during the same hour.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

who was Bishop of London throughout the raids, gives this

MESSAGE TO LONDON

I have been asked, as one who has been among them through blitz and bomb and rocket, to give a message to my fellow Londoners, which at this time of victory they can read in their own homes.

Perhaps the old home has gone beyond repair, or still has its wartime patchings of roofs and ceilings and windows. But even so, London is our Home again, with the peace and security of a home, free from the intrusions of droning engines of destruction, blast and sudden death—our own again.

As we give thanks to God for all that this victory means for us and tor the world, let us thank Him especially for our homes restored to an and all that they mean. Many must wait indeed till houses are built in their thousands: many must wait till sons and daughters, fathers and mothers come back from the war: and some will not return.

And we cannot forget the millions in Europe, dispossessed, scattered, hungry and homeless. But the grace of homeliness has returned to the earth, and to London. Let us thank God for that, and pray that our homes may be made all that they should be, not only houses well built, airy and clean, but homes where families dwell together in mutual trust, loyalty, affection and godliness.

As we look round on a London at peace we may adapt for our own use words of the Psalmist:

Walk about London, and go round about her: and tell the towers therof

Mark well her bulwarks, set up her houses: that ye may tell them that come after.

For this God is our God for ever and ever: He shall be our guide unto death—and beyond.

High and low, rich and poor; one with another, Praise the Lord.





WORLDS LARGEST THE Evening Aems



SENIORS The Best Possible!

FOR THEIR KING AND QUEEN



REJOICED

HOW THEY PALACE CROWDS The New York Way -REJOICED OVER THERE OUR TROOPS Lit FORWARD AND ANGEL AND Our Troops Lit PREMIER'S CAR

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Other VE pictures on Page Three and Back Page,

Thanksgiving.

O all those gallant people in London and throughout the Realm, to whom we have been proud to render service during the dark days now behind us: Our praise for their steadfastness: Our Thanks for their loyalty . . . And our hopes that we may play our part with them in furthering the greater happiness of mankind

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