

# VE Day 75th Anniversary Commemoration

*Please join in with the words in bold if you wish*

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, airmen and civilians 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:

**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 that 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.**

We remember the names of those who gave their lives who came from Barnes

*Names are read out of the servicemen and women, and civilians who were killed during World War Two, as recorded in the church Book of Remembrance*

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.

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**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.**

### Prayers

#### For those who served and died in World War II

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,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### For those who serve today

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 re-  
proach; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### For the peace of the world

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 wis-  
dom 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. **Amen.**

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### For the Queen and those in authority

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. **Amen.**

### A prayer for this time

Gracious God, we hold in your presence a world full of fear and foreboding. We ask your wisdom for all politicians, policy makers and planners as they seek to contain the spread of coronavirus, bring speedy help to the sick, and plan how to lift the lockdown.

We give you thanks for all those health, care and frontline workers who are putting their lives at risk and pray that you will protect and sustain them in their work.

We pray for all those who have been affected, whether by sickness or grief, especially those dying in isolation apart from their families, that they may know your healing presence.

We give you thanks for a new sense of solidarity in society and pray that this may have deep and lasting effects. We pray for ourselves and all people, that we may be open to the leading of your Spirit into a new and better future, and we ask this in the name of Jesus who shares our anguish and lifts our lives to you. **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. **Amen**