

Remembrance Documentary and Act of Commemoration for VE Day 75th Anniversary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= NNcUSeHMz0&feature=youtu.be>

Friends, I have recorded this as we cannot gather as we would wish during this period of protection against Covid-19 to commemorate on Friday 8th May, the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe when the sounds of war fell silent on this continent.

Even as we come together virtually, we are conscious of our need for God's forgiveness for the sin of desiring to dominate others that leads to conflict between people, and war between nations.

We shall not forget the many soldiers, sailors, and airmen, and civilians, who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, so we also come in thanksgiving for the times of peace that the nations of Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War.

Just as there was victory over tyranny and hope in the form of renewed life because of Victory in Europe, we thank God for hope in all things according to His will on earth as it is in heaven. Let us affirm this, our thanks and hope in God, saying together the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Hymn: **Praise my soul the King of Heaven** (sung at Westminster Abbey VE Service)

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, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Fatherlike 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, alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.

Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him, praise Him, alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

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, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

A Reading from the New Testament: 2 Corinthians 15:16-21

¹⁶From 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. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of

reconciliation to us. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hymn: **Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer**

Guide me, O thou great redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield,
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke:

¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." ²² But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

VE 75th Anniversary Message

The victory following a time of battle, a time of discipline, sacrifice, terror, and yearning for hope, is a victory firstly against tyranny. A tyranny of evil, of evil of any and all kinds that is rampant and indiscriminate. Victory is secondly about the triumph of all things good and worthy: valour, courage, determination, resilience, selflessness, discipline, sacrifice. But victory is incomplete even when the power of tyranny is overcome, is toppled, unless there is the victory of love: putting the wrong-doings, even intentioned harm, behind: to love, welcome and rejoice with the contrite and confessing wrong-doer while acknowledging that we may at any time be the wrong-doer ourselves. God is love. In the Gospel reading, the father receives with joy and celebration the son who wronged his father, lived a wayward life, and who has returned. The victory in that scene is love that forgives; about wrong that is acknowledged, and love that celebrates reunion and a new life together. God's nature of love is in us. Victory is always to be celebrated, as we celebrate today. We will sustain Victory when we love and continue to love as God loves us. Amen

The National Anthem with 2 verses of the original hymn not usually sung

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

Not in this land alone,
But be God's mercies known,
From shore to shore!
Lord make the nations see,
That men should brothers be,
And form one family,
The wide world o'er

From every latent foe,
From the assassin's blow,
God save the Queen!
O'er her thine arm extend,
For Britain's sake defend,
Our mother, prince, and friend,
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

Amen

VE Day Toast: **To those who gave so much...we thank you**

