



Leicester Cathedral
A beating heart for City and County

A Service of Commemoration to mark the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day



5.00pm
Saturday 15 August 2020

The Hymn

**All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.**

**Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Daily doth th' Almighty Giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.**

**Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.**

The Welcome, Introduction and Prayer

Welcome to this service from Leicester Cathedral to mark the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day. It is not possible to gather us all in the Cathedral today because of the coronavirus. However, I am really pleased that we have been able to work in partnership with colleagues from the Lieutenancy Office and local military organisations to put together this service, and I warmly welcome you wherever you are as we worship across the distance.

I am delighted that as well as contributions from the Bishop of Leicester and the Bishop of Loughborough, among others, we shall be joined in this service by His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, who will read an extract from the speech given by King George VI on VJ Day itself. The king's words highlight the mix of emotions that are encapsulated by this occasion: there is of course relief, thankfulness and joy at the ending of the Second World War.

However, there is also acknowledgement of the very great human cost that was borne in the fight for peace, and of the many millions of lives that would be changed for ever because of this conflict. Many of those who served in the Far East Campaigns, including a significant number from this County of Leicestershire, knew extreme privations and suffering as prisoners of war. They have come to be known as 'the forgotten army.' Today we do not forget them; today we shall remember in silence, and we shall pray. And towards the end of the service, we shall be invited, as King George VI asked of that generation 75 years ago, to recommit ourselves to the building of peace in this world.

We continue in prayer. Let us pray.

Eternal light, shine into our hearts,
eternal goodness, deliver us from evil,
eternal power, be our support,
eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,
eternal pity, have mercy upon us;
that with all our heart and mind and soul and strength
we may seek your face and be brought by your infinite mercy
to your holy presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Alcuin of York (804)

Words about VJ Day

Read by Colonel Anthony Swallow OBE, Trustee, Royal Tigers' Association

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61.1–4

Read by Resham Singh Sandhu MBE DL FRSA

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The spirit of the LORD GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Hymn

**The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine for ever.**

**Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.**

*DOMINUS REGIT ME (AM794i)
John Bacchus Dykes (1823–1876)*

*Henry Williams Baker (1821–1877)
based on Psalm 23*

The New Testament Reading

Romans 8.35–39

Read by Pam Posnett MBE, Chairman of Leicestershire County Council

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

The Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester

The Cathedral Choir sings

The Anthem

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,
whose mind is stayed on thee.
The darkness is no darkness with thee,
but the night is as clear as the day.
The darkness and the light to thee are both alike.
God is light and with him is no darkness at all.
Oh let my soul live, and it shall praise thee,
for thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, for evermore.

*Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–1876)
Recording from Leicester Cathedral Choir's CD He lieth under this stone
on the Acclaim label. Used with permission.*

*Isaiah 26 v. 3; Psalm 139 v. 11;
1 John 1 v. 5; Psalm 119 v. 175*

The Dean leads

The Act of Remembrance

The Dean of Leicester says:

Let us remember before God,
and commend to his sure keeping:
those who have died for their country in war especially in the Far East;
those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure;
and all who have lived and died in the service of mankind.

*A wreath is laid by Roger Jones, Chairman, General Committee, Royal Tigers' Association.
Colonel Anthony Swallow says:*

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old:
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
we will remember them.
We will remember them.

The Last Post is sounded, and a period of silence is observed.

The Reveille is sounded. The Last Post and Reveille are played by Gary Perrin.

The Kohima Epitaph is read by Colonel Swallow:

When you go home, tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrow, we gave our today.

Roger Jones reads

The FEPOW Prayer

And we that are left grow old with the years.
Remembering the heartache, the pain and the tears.
Hoping and praying that never again
Man will sink to such sorrow and shame.
The price that was paid we will always remember.
Every day, every month, not just in November.
We shall remember them.

*Composed by Cpl Arthur Ogden, 1st Btn Leicestershire Regiment, whilst
at the FEPOW Unit, Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton in 1974*

The Dean says

Ever-living God,
we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war
into the peace of your presence;
may that same peace calm our fears,
bring justice to all peoples
and establish harmony among the nations,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Loughborough, leads

Prayers of Intercession

We pray on this 75th anniversary of VJ Day in thankfulness for the end of that war and for the continued peace and healing of our world:

A Prayer for VJ Day

God our Father,
in the dying and rising of your Son Jesus Christ,
you have brought life and salvation out of cruelty and death.
We mark Victory in Japan
in gratitude for the courage of the Allied forces
who suffered for freedom in the Far East campaign
and in sorrow for all that hinders the coming of your kingdom of peace.
Give us wisdom to learn from the bitter memories of war,
and hearts that long for the unity of all nations.
We ask all this in the name of Jesus,
in whom there is no east or west, no north or south,
but one fellowship of love across the whole earth.
Amen.

A Prayer for those who served and died in the Second World War

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.
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.

A Prayer for Peace and Reconciliation

Heavenly Father, you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ
to continue his work of reconciliation and reveal you to the world.
Forgive us the sins which tear us apart;
give us the courage to overcome our fears
and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We keep a short period of silence to lift our own prayers to God.

A short silence is kept.

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities
which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We unite all these our prayers,
as we pray for the coming of God's kingdom
in the words our Saviour Christ 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.**

An Extract from The Speech of King George VI, 15 August 1945

Japan has surrendered, so let us join in thanking Almighty God that war has ended throughout the world, and that in every country men may now turn their industry, skill, and science to repairing its frightful devastation and to building prosperity and happiness.

Our sense of deliverance is overpowering, and with it all, we have a right to feel that we have done our duty.

I ask you again at this solemn hour to remember all who have laid down their lives, and all who have endured the loss of those they love. Remember, too, the sufferings of those who fell into the hands of the enemy, whether as prisoners of war or because their homes had been overrun. They have been in our thoughts all through these dark years, and let us pray that one result of the defeat of Japan may be many happy reunions of those who have been long separated from each other.

The campaigns in the Far East will be famous in history for many reasons. There is one feature of them which is a special source of pride to me, and also to you, the citizens of our British Commonwealth and Empire to whom I speak. In those campaigns there have fought, side by side with our allies, representatives of almost every unit in our great community – men from the Old Country, men from the Dominions, from India, and the Colonies. They fought in brotherhood; through their courage and endurance they conquered. To all of them and to the women who shared with them the hardships and dangers of war I send my proud and grateful thanks.

The world has come to look for certain things, for certain qualities from the peoples of the Commonwealth and Empire. We have our part to play in restoring the shattered fabric of civilisation. It is a proud and difficult part, and if you carry on in the years to come as you have done so splendidly in the war, you and your children can look forward to the future, not with fear, but with high hopes of a surer happiness for all. It is to this great task that I call you now, and I know that I shall not call in vain.

In the meantime, from the bottom of my heart I thank my Peoples for all they have done, not only for themselves but for mankind.

The Hymn

**Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.**

**Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.**

**Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.**

**Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.**

**Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.**

*LORD OF THE YEARS (AM715)
Michael Baughen (b.1930)*

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

The Act of Commitment

We have remembered those who paid the ultimate sacrifice on the field of war, that we may be able to live in the pastures of peace. Let us now 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.

Will you strive for all that makes for peace?
We will.

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?
We will.

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?
We will.

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love: may we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people, and live lives of justice, courage and mercy; through Jesus Christ our risen redeemer.
Amen.

The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth and all people, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

All sing

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.**

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Thesaurus Musicus (c.1743)

Anonymous (c. 1745)

Christopher Ouvry-Johns, Director of Music, plays the following Voluntary

Psalm Prelude (Set I, Op.32, No.3)

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

Yea, thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Psalm 23, v.4

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