

God of the nations and of this nation,  
thank you for bringing us through  
the hardships of the Second World War.  
Comfort those who still grieve,  
and challenge we who live on  
to value and build on what was won.  
On this, the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of victory,  
may the red in our flag  
remind us of the sacrifices made;  
may the blue in our flag,  
remind us of the freedoms we now enjoy;  
and may the white in our flag  
remind us of the dove of peace,  
which we must never take for granted.  
We ask this in Jesus's name. **Amen**

*A few moments of quiet for personal reflection*

*The National Anthem*

**God save our gracious King,  
Long live our noble King,  
God save the King!  
Send him victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the King !**

*Hymn 214: Guide me, O thou great Redeemer*

*The Blessing*

## **A Service of Worship for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE DAY**



Heaviness may endure for a night:  
**All But joy comes in the morning.**  
God is 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 anniversary of Victory in Europe.  
We come together conscious of our need for God's forgiveness  
for the sin of desiring to dominate others,  
which leads to conflict between people and war between nations.  
And as we remember the many soldiers, sailors and airmen  
who gave their lives to restrain evil and oppose tyranny, so we also  
come in thanksgiving for those who continue to strive for peace.  
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 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.**

*Hymn 192: Praise, my soul, the King of heaven*

*Old Testament Reading: Micah 4.1–5*

*New Testament Reading: Luke 15.18–24*

*Hymn: Lord for the years*

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 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.

*Address: John Coyne*

*An Open Letter: from 10 surviving veterans*

*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 all the nations.

**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.**

**O Lord our God,  
as we remember, teach us the ways of peace;  
as we treasure memories, teach us to hope;  
as we give thanks for the sacrifices of the past,  
help us to seek your ways for the future in this world,  
until your kingdom comes in its fulness. Amen.**

God of peace, who raised Christ Jesus to victory over death,  
keep us ever mindful of the cost of making peace,  
of the call to be peacemakers,  
and of the carefulness needed to keep the peace,  
in our lives, in our land and in our world. **Amen.**