**A Service to Mark the**

**80th Anniversary of Victory over Japan Day**

**Greeting and Introduction**

Leader Sorrow may endure for a night:

**All But joy comes in the morning.**

God has been our refuge and our strength:

 **A present help in time of trouble.**

Leader Dear friends,

we have come together on this day

to commemorate the anniversary

of the end of the Second World War.

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, and airmen

who gave their lives restraining evil

and opposing tyranny,

so we also come in thanksgiving

for those who continue to strive for peace

on this continent.

We gather joyfully today,

as those who gathered on that first VJ 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:

**All 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.

**Hymn 192**

***Praise, my soul, the King of heaven***

 **Confession, Absolution, Praise**

*We sit or kneel to pray*

Leader Let us confess to God

the sins and shortcomings of the world,

its pride, its selfishness, its greed;

its evil divisions and hatreds.

Let us confess our share in what is wrong,

and our failure to seek and establish

that peace which God wills for his children.

All Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned

in thought, word and deed.

We have not loved you

with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbours

as ourselves.

In your mercy,

forgive what we have been,

help us to amend what we are,

and direct what we shall be;

that we may do justly,

love mercy,

and walk humbly with you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon us,

pardon and deliver us from all our sins,

confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,

and keep us in life eternal;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Assured of God’s forgiveness,*

*let us praise the Lord…*

Leader Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord:

***All Sing his praise and exalt him for ever.***

Bless the Lord you heavens:

***Sing his praise and exalt him for ever.***

Bless the Lord all people on earth:

***Sing his praise and exalt him for ever.***

O people of God bless the Lord:

***Sing his praise and exalt him for ever.***

Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit:

***Sing his praise and exalt him for ever.***

**A Collect for Peace**

O God,

who would fold both heaven and earth
in a single peace;
let the design of your great love

lighten upon the waste

of our wraths and sorrows
and give peace to your church,

peace among nations,
peace in our dwellings

and peace in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading**

**Verses from Psalm 46**

**All God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble;**

**Therefore we will not fear,**

**though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains**

**tremble in the heart of the sea;**

**Though the waters rage and swell,
and though the mountains quake**

**at the towering seas.** *Continued…*

**There is a river**

**whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place**

**of the dwelling of the Most High.**

**God is in the midst of her;
therefore shall she not be removed;
God shall help her at the break of day.**

**The nations are in uproar**

**and the kingdoms are shaken,
but God utters his voice**

**and the earth shall melt away.**

**The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

**‘Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.’**

***Glory be to the Father,***

***and to the Son,***

***and to the Holy Spirit:***

***As it was in the beginning,***

***is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.***

**New Testament Reading**

**Hymn 115**

***Dear Lord and Father of Mankind***

**Address**

Hymn

*Eternal God, before whose face we stand*

Eternal God, before whose face we stand,

your earthly children, fashioned by your hand,

hear and behold us, for to you alone

all hearts are open, all our longings known;

so for our world and for ourselves we pray

the gift of peace, O Lord, in this our day.

We come with grief,

 with thankfulness and pride,

to hold in honour those who served and died;

we bring our hurt, our loneliness and loss,

to him who hung forsaken on the cross;

who, for our peace,

 our pains and sorrows bore,

and with the Father lives for evermore.

O Prince of peace, who gave for us your life,

look down in pity on our sin and strife.

May this remembrance

 move our hearts to build

a peace enduring, and a hope fulfilled,

when every flag of tyranny is furled

and wars at last shall cease in all the world.

From earth’s long tale of suffering here below

we pray the fragile flower of peace may grow,

till cloud and darkness vanish from our skies

to see the Sun of Righteousness arise.

When night is past

 and peace shall banish pain,

all shall be well, in God’s eternal reign.

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**Prayers and Intercessions**

**An Act of Commitment**

Leader 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.

**All 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.**

 *A moment of silence follows…*

**All The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**

**and the love of God**

**and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit**

**be with us all. Amen.**

**Hymn 205**

***Now thank we all our God***

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.

**The Blessing**

Leader God grant to the living, grace;

to the departed, rest;

to the Church,

the King,

the Commonwealth,

and all people,

peace and concord;

and to us and all his servants,

life everlasting;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Leader Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Prayers and Intercessions**

God of love, we give you thanks

in this 80th anniversary year

for deliverance from the forces of evil tyranny

ranged against our country and our allies

in the Second World War.

We thank you

for strong and decisive

political and military leadership,

for the courage and sacrifice

of our own soldiers, sailors and airmen

and for all those from so many nations

who came to our aid

in our hour of greatest need.

We thank you

for those who watched and waited for them,

for all who served

by keeping the home fires burning

and supplying the war effort -

for farmers and land girls,

the Bevin Boys,

factory workers,

shopkeepers,

entertainers,

broadcasters,

the police, Home Guard and Air Raid Wardens, ambulancemen and women, fire brigades, communications and transport workers

and so many others in so many walks of life.

We thank you

for those who cared

for the wounded and the bereaved,

for all who continued to serve their communities

despite the difficulties and dangers

of daily life in wartime,

and all who, through small acts of kindness,

supported and encouraged

their families, friends and neighbours

in those dark days of war.

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 make your future in this world,

until your kingdom comes. **Amen**.

**A prayer on the 80th anniversary of VJ Day**

God of the nations,
our refuge and our dwelling place,
we remember with thanksgiving
those whose service

achieved Allied victory in the Pacific,
and hold before you

those on ***all*** sides

who suffered
from the devastation and trauma of war.
As we pray

for those who suffer the atrocities of war,
strengthen our resolve

to pursue what makes for peace,
through the one in whom

we are reconciled and made one,
even Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.**

**A prayer 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 and in the Pacific.

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 those who lived**

**through the war years**

O God

whose longing is for peace and not for war,

for hope and not for despair;

today we hold before you,

all who endured the years of war in this land:

the fear of aerial bombing,

the shortages of food,

the toil and drudgery of the war effort,

the long hours,

sleepless nights

and constant fear

for loved ones fighting an enemy far away.

O Lord our God,

we remember before you

the ones who lived through those years,

who were born in those years,

and whose lives were lost in those years.

May the peace they won for us

across these eighty years since VJ Day,

be their reward and our enduring cause,

for the sake of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**continued overleaf**

**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 reproach;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A Prayer for the Sovereign**

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,

bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles

and all who are in authority under him;

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.**

***The Prayer of St Ignatius***

Teach us, good Lord,

to serve you as you deserve,
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labour and not to ask for any reward;
except that of knowing that we do your will. **Amen.**

**Prayers continue with the Act of Commitment**

Bible Readings

Micah 4;1-4

In the last days

the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established
as chief among the mountains;
it will be raised above the hills,
and peoples will stream to it.

Many nations will come and say

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
 to the house of the God of Jacob.
 He will teach us his ways,
 so that we may walk in his paths."
 The law will go out from Zion,
 the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
 He will judge between many peoples
 and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.
 They will beat their swords into ploughshares
  and their spears into pruning hooks.
  Nation will not take up sword against nation,
  nor will they train for war any more.
  Every man will sit under his own vine
  and under his own fig-tree,
  and no-one will make them afraid,
  for the Lord Almighty has spoken.

2 Corinthians 5:11 – 6:2

So from now on

we regard no-one from a worldly point of view.

Though we once regarded Christ in this way,

we do so no longer.

Therefore,

if anyone is in Christ,

he is a new creation;

the old has gone,

the new has come!

All this is from God,

who reconciled us to himself through Christ

and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them.

And he has committed to us

the message of reconciliation.

We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors,

as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf:

Be reconciled to God.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,

so that in him we might become

the righteousness of God.

As God’s fellow-workers

we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.

For he says,

*“In the time of my favour I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.”*I tell you,

now is the time of God’s favour,

now is the day of salvation.