



Service to mark the 75th anniversary of victory in Europe, VE Day 2020

9.30am

Friday 8 May 2020

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL

A PLACE FOR ALL PEOPLE





Welcome

Welcome to this short service to give thanks on the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe, VE day.

Today we give thanks for this victory, and for all those who served in the Second World War—particularly from Sheffield and South Yorkshire. We remember the tremendous cost of victory in Europe, in lives that were given by those who served in the armed forces, the cost of war paid by many others who were wounded in conflict. We give thanks too for those who served our nation in the mines and the steel industry of our Diocese.

As HM the Queen said in her recent address to our nation, during this pandemic we can take great comfort from the story of our country in World War II. For a time, we were the only country fighting against Nazism. Our whole nation was drawn together in one common effort against a terrible foe. With God's help we prevailed against the enemy in the Second World War—and we can take courage from this today as we face a different enemy, COVID-19.

We can give thanks today that we have been reconciled with those who were once our enemies, and that for many years we have enjoyed peace in northern Europe.

Peter
Dean

Keith
Vice Dean and Canon Missioner

¶ To mark
the 75th Anniversary of
Victory in Europe,
8 May 1945

A service of thanksgiving

¶ The Greeting and the Preface

The Vice Dean greets the people and says,

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

God has been our refuge and our strength:

All A very present help in time of trouble.

Psalm 46.1

The Vice Dean welcomes the people, and says the Preface.

In the presence of God, we have come together today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe, when the sounds of war fell silent on this continent.

We come together knowing our need for God's forgiveness for the sinful desire to dominate others that leads to conflict between nations, and for our failure to be peacemakers in our own day.

We remember before God the many sailors, soldiers, and airmen who gave their lives resisting evil and opposing tyranny. We remember particularly, and with great pride, those who served from Sheffield and South Yorkshire, thousands of whom are commemorated in our Cathedral.

We come too in thanksgiving for the years of peace that the nations of northern Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War. We gather today virtually in our homes, as those who gathered in the streets 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 let us pray that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven, as our Saviour Christ has taught us:

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.**

¶ The Word of God

We say together Psalm 121.

Priest I lift up my eyes to the hills; ♦□
from where is my help to come?

All **My help comes from the Lord, ♦□**
the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not suffer your foot to stumble; ♦□
he who watches over you will not sleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel ♦□
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord himself watches over you; ♦□
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, ♦□
neither the moon by night.
The Lord shall keep you from all evil; ♦□
it is he who shall keep your soul.
The Lord shall keep watch over your going out
and your coming in, ♦□
from this time forth for evermore.
Glory 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.

*The lesson is read by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for South Yorkshire,
Mr Andrew Coombe.*

A reading from the Prophet Micah (4.1-4).

In the days to come, the nations shall not learn war any more.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills.
Peoples shall stream to it,
and many nations shall come and say:
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;
but they shall all sit under their own vines
and under their own fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.



The Homily

The Reverend Canon Keith Farrow
Vice Dean and Canon Missioner



The Prayers

The Vice Dean leads the prayers.

Trusting the promises of God, and with faith in his mercy,
let us pray to the Lord.

Let us give thanks for the courageous service of those who brought
peace to Europe, and for the good example of sacrifice they
have given us:

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We pray for nations devastated by war today, for their people and
their leaders; we pray for those who suffer from the wounds or
memories of past wars; we pray for veterans, for those who mourn,
and for the innocent whose lives have been shattered by the cruelty of
others:

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us give thanks for those who work for peace and liberty throughout
the world, for the Armed Forces of the Crown, and for all who strive to
bring an end to injustice and oppression:

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We pray for those in our own day who have grown weary or lost hope
as a result of violence or terror; for all refugees and displaced people,
and for those who seek to address the causes of discord and distrust:

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies, for the flourishing of goodwill between them, and for the many blessings we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have been made for peace:
Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We remember before God all those who died during the Second World War, especially those from Sheffield and South Yorkshire, and those who mourn them still.

May they rest in peace.

All And rise in glory.

The Collect for Peace

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 wisdom
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 your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect for the Queen

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,
in righteousness and peace,
to the honour of your name,
and the good of your Church and people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect for use during the Coronavirus Pandemic

O Lord our God,
accept the fervent prayers of your people;
in the multitude of your mercies
look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help;
for you are gracious, O lover of souls,
and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Blessing

The Vice Dean says 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.

All **Amen.**

The text of this blessing was chosen by the Queen to be carved into the great entrance of Westminster Abbey.

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Childline, for young people and children, 0800 1111
Sheffield City Safeguarding, 0114 2734567
South Yorkshire Police, 101

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Back Page Image: Detail from windows in St George's Chapel, Sheffield Cathedral

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