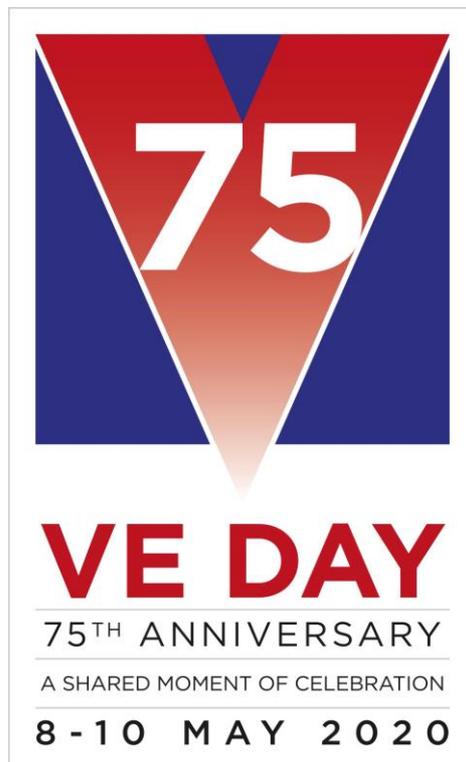




Leicester Cathedral
A beating heart for City and County

A Service on the 75th Anniversary of VE Day



12.00pm
Friday 8 May 2020

ORDER OF SERVICE

The service is led by The Revd Canon Alison Adams, Sub-Dean of Leicester.

An Organ Voluntary is played.

The Welcome

Heaviness may endure for a night:
But joy comes in the morning.
God has been our refuge and our strength:
A present help in time of trouble.

Dear friends, we come together across the distance on this day to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe, when the sounds of war fell silent on this continent.

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 the years of peace that the nations of Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War.

Although we cannot gather in the Cathedral on this day, we gather in spirit with each other and joyfully, as those who gathered on that first Victory day. We are grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss, and we look forward with hope to a time when we shall be able to meet again with gladness in each other's company.

The Hymn

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia,
glorious in his faithfulness.**

**Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on:
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the high eternal One.**

**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:
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise with us the God of grace.**

*PRAISE MY SOUL (AM766)
John Goss (1800–1880)*

*Henry Francis Lyte (1793–1847)
based on Psalm 103*

The Reading

Tribute to The Millions

Read by Colonel Wakefield, Deputy Commander of 7th Infantry Brigade

Let us remember those who so selflessly gave their lives at home and abroad, whose sacrifice enables us to enjoy the peace and freedom we have today.

Let us remember those who came home wounded, physically and mentally, and the friends and family who cared for them.

Let us remember those who returned to restore their relationships and rebuild their working lives after years of dreadful conflict and turmoil.

Let us remember the families that lost husbands, sons and sweethearts.

Let us remember the servicemen, merchant seamen, miners, brave civilians and others from Commonwealth and Allied countries who fought, suffered and died during several years of war.

Let us remember those in reserved occupation and the brave people who kept us safe on the home front – the doctors and nurses who cared for the wounded, the women and men who toiled in the fields, those who worked in the factories, who all played such a vital role in the war effort at home.

*Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR
Pageantmaster VE Day 75*

Music for Reflection

In manus tuas

In manus tuas, Domine, commendo
spiritum meum; redemisti nos, Domine,
Deus veritatis.

*Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;
for thou hast redeemed us, O Lord,
thou God of truth.*

Loyset Compère (c.1445–1518)
from O bone Jesu

Psalm 31.6

The Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 8.3–8

Read by Michael Kapur OBE, Lord-Lieutenant

A reading from the Book of Zechariah.

Living safely and at peace

Thus says the LORD: I will return to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts shall be called the holy mountain. Thus says the LORD of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. Thus says the LORD of hosts: Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem impossible to me, says the LORD of hosts? Thus says the LORD of hosts: I will save my people from the east country and from the west country; and I will bring them to live in Jerusalem. They shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.

Here ends the first reading.

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 New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 5.16–21

Read by Councillor Annette Byrne, Lord Mayor of Leicester

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

The call to be reconciled

From 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. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 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. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Here ends the second reading.

The Address

The Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester

The Prayers

An 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 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 make your future in this world,
until your kingdom come.
Amen.

Prayers in Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety,
give us strength to comfort the fearful,
to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.
Amen.

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.
Amen.

A Prayer for the Sovereign

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

We may be separated by distance but as we bring our prayers and praises to God we join our voices together to say the Lord's Prayer:

**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 Hymn

**Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours to-day.**

**O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.**

*NUN DANKET (AM739)
Melody in Johann Crüger in Praxis Pietatis Melica, 1647
harmony chiefly from Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
Lobegesang, 1840*

*Martin Rinkart (1586–1649)
translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878)*

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.
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)

An Organ Voluntary is played.

***As we cannot meet for post-service refreshments
we invite you to join Leicester Cathedral in taking part in the
Big Picnic for Hope.***

***This is raising funds in aid of the Trussell Trust
which provides funds for Foodbanks across the nation.
More information is on the next page.***

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Some music performed in this service is taken from the CD *The Beatific Vision* [on the Herald Label].



Join in the 'Big Picnic for Hope' on Friday 8 May by having a picnic at home to honour heroes past and present and help support the nation's foodbanks. Visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bigpicnicforhope to give.

Many of us would have been commemorating the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8 May. Families and friends would have been gathering for street parties and celebrations around the UK, which unfortunately is no longer possible. Cathedrals around the country would have been hosting major events to mark this anniversary too. Instead, they are joining forces to ask people around the UK to picnic at home and at the same time support people struggling to put food on the table due to COVID-19.

The Big Picnic For Hope aims to raise £5000 for the Trussell Trust, a charity which supports a nationwide network of food banks and provides emergency food and support to people locked in poverty. With a rise in the number of people who are using foodbanks nationally, and the future uncertain as to how many people will have to adjust to more difficult living conditions around the country, the Big Picnic for Hope aims to ask those who can to donate towards providing another individual or family having food in their house today.

The Big Picnic for Hope also celebrates the heroes of our new 'homefront': those risking their lives, the NHS, carers, delivery personnel, workers across food stores and public transport, and the remarkable collective effort of the nation to stay home and play our own individual part in helping to see this through.

Thank you for supporting the vital work of the Trussell Trust – help us spread the word by sharing your picnic on social media with the hashtags **#bigpicnicforhope** and **#feed5000**