



PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL



ONLINE
SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION FOR
THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF VJ DAY

Saturday 15th August 2020
3.00pm

WELCOME TO PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL

Whilst VE Day (Victory in Europe) marked the end of the war in Europe in May 1945, many thousands of Armed Forces personnel were still engaged in bitter fighting in the Far East. Victory over Japan would come at a heavy price, and Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) marks the day Japan surrendered on the 15 August 1945, which in effect ended the Second World War.

Fighting in the Asia-Pacific region took place from Hawaii to North East India. Britain and the Commonwealth's principal fighting force, the Fourteenth Army, was one of the most diverse in history: more than 40 languages were spoken, and all the world's major religions represented.

The descendants of many of the Commonwealth veterans of that army are today part of multicultural communities around the world, a lasting legacy to the success and comradeship of those who fought in the Asia-Pacific.

ORDER OF SERVICE

*Introduction and welcome by the Dean of Peterborough,
The Very Revd Christopher Dalliston*

Dear friends, although separated by circumstances, we come together on this day to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Japan, when the sounds of war were finally silenced- at least for a time.

Today we come together in sorrow for all that lies within the human spirit to create conflict between peoples, and war between nations. We come together to pray for peace and the healing of the world. 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 have dedicated their lives to working for peace and reconciliation between nations.

And so, despite all we have faced in the past and still face today, we come together in joy, like those who gathered 75 years ago to mark a great victory, and in gratitude for all that binds us together even in times of sadness and loss.

The Bidding Prayer

The Dean welcomes the congregation and says

We are here to worship Almighty God, whose purposes are good;
whose power sustains the world he has made;
who loves us, though we have failed in his service;
who gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world;
who by his Holy Spirit leads us in his way.
As we give thanks for his great works,
we remember those who have lived and died in his service
and in the service of others;
we pray for all who suffer through war and are in need;
we ask for his help and blessing that we may do his will,
and that the whole world may acknowledge him as Lord and King.

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading: Micah 4: 1-5
read by Cllr John Holdich

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.
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.

Reminiscences of the end of the war
by Mr Harry Jeffries, a veteran of World War Two

Reading: Matthew 5: 1-12
read by Gillian Beasley, CEO, Peterborough City Council

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*Canon Ian Black leads **The Prayers,**
based on prayers used in a service held in Westminster Abbey in 1945*

Let us remember with pride and honour all those who laid down their lives in the cause of freedom and justice throughout the Second World War. Especially we remember today all those who continued to serve after victory in Europe had already been won:

Remember, O Lord, all those, the brave and the true,
who have died the death of honour
and are departed in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life.
In that place of light from which sorrow and mourning are far banished,
give them rest, O Lord.
And grant to us who remain
the spirit of service which may make us worthy of their sacrifice,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Let us remember those who suffered and died as prisoners of war, and those who were detained in prison camps in the Far East; those whose bodies and minds were damaged beyond repair by what they saw; those who could not forgive what had been done to them:

O God, you proclaim liberty to the captives and justice to the oppressed;
Look with compassion upon those who suffer and are imprisoned,
including on those who are still held captive by memories of pain and hatred.
Comfort and strengthen them in all their afflictions
and bring them to perfect freedom
in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer based on words of Abraham Lincoln following the American Civil War:

Grant, O most merciful God,
that with malice towards none, with charity to all,
with firmness in the right as you grant us the ability to see what is right,
we may strive to finish the task which you have appointed for us;
to bind up the wounds of the nations;
to care for those who bore the heat of battle, and for their families;
to do all those things which may achieve a true and lasting peace
among ourselves and between all nations;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us gather together all our prayers in the words our Saviour Jesus Christ 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.**

Last Post
played by Ollie Hayward, The King's School Peterborough

*Major Anthony Elsey recites the **Exhortation***

Silence is kept

Reveille *is sounded*

*Major Elsey reads **Kohima Epitaph:***

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

The Mayor of Peterborough lays a wreath in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the Far East during the Second World War.

*The Dean leads the **Act of Commitment:***

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 recording of the **National Anthem** is played:*

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.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign:
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice
God save The Queen!

*The Dean of Peterborough gives **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.

Organ Voluntary

The Archbishop's Fanfare, *Francis Jackson (b.1917)*
Peterborough Cathedral Virtual Organ played by David Lamb, Audio Angelorum

Peterborough Cathedral would like to thank:

Cllr Gul Nawaz, The Mayor of Peterborough
Gillian Beasley OBE, *Chief Executive of Peterborough City Council*
Cllr John Holdich OBE, *Leader of Peterborough City Council*
Major Anthony E. Elsey TD, *President of the Royal British Legion, Peterborough*
Members of The Royal British Legion
Tansy Castledine, *Director of Music, Peterborough Cathedral*
Ollie Maynard and Dr Martin Ratcliffe, *The King's School, Peterborough*
Chris Pallister, *Post Production, Peterboroughlive.tv*