

Benefice of Coniston and Crake Valley



VE DAY

75th Anniversary

The Greeting and Introduction

All Heaviness may endure for a night:
But joy comes in the morning.

All God has been our refuge and our strength:
A present help in time of trouble.

Dear friends, we have come together 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. 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:

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

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
 to his feet your tribute bring;
 ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
 who like you his praise should sing?
 Praise him! Praise him!
 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.
 Praise him! Praise him!
 Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us,
 Well our feeble frame he knows;
 in his hands he gently bears us,
 rescues us from all our foes.
 Praise him! Praise him!
 Widely as his mercy flows.

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.
 Praise him! Praise him!
 Praise with us the God of grace.

Reading Zechariah 8.3-8*Living safely and at peace*

³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. ⁶ 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? ⁷ Thus says the LORD of hosts: I will save my people from the east country and from the west country; ⁸ 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.

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 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.

Reading 2 Corinthians 5.16-21 *The call to be reconciled*

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Responsory

All Your salvation is near to those who fear you,
that glory may dwell in our land.

All Mercy and truth have met together;
 righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
that glory may dwell in our land.

All Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you. Your salvation is near to those who fear you, that glory may dwell in our land.

Hymn Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

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

Address Revd. Brian Streeter

Prayers

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.
 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.

All **Amen.**

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.

All **Amen.**

For the peace of the world

O God, who would fold both heaven and earth
 in a single peace;
 that 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.

All **Amen.**

The Naval Prayer

O Eternal Lord God,
 who alone spreadest out the heavens and rulest the
 raging of the sea;
 who has compassed the waters with bounds
 until day and night come to an end;
 be pleased to receive into Thy almighty and most
 gracious protection the persons of them Thy servants,
 and the Fleet in which they serve.
 Preserve them from the dangers of the sea and of the
 air, and from the violence of the enemy;
 that they may be a safeguard
 unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth,
 and her Dominions, and a security for such as pass
 upon the seas upon their lawful occasions;
 that the inhabitants of our islands and Commonwealth
 may in peace and quietness
 serve Thee our God;
 and that they may return in safety
 to enjoy the blessings of the land,
 with the fruits of their labours,
 and with a thankful remembrance of Thy mercies
 to praise and glorify Thy Holy Name;

All

Amen.

An Army Collect

Almighty God, whose command is overall and whose
 love never fails, let those who serve in the Army be
 aware of your presence and obedient to your will.
 Help them to accept their share of responsibility with
 strong heart and cheerful mind.
 Make them considerate of those with whom they live
 and serve, and faithful to the duties their country has
 entrusted to them.

Let their uniform remind them daily of the traditions of the Army in which they serve.

When they are tempted to sin, let them resist.

When they fail, give them courage to try again.

Guide them with the light of your truth,

and keep before them the example of Jesus

in whose name we all pray and in whom we trust.

All

Amen.

Royal Air Force Collect

Almighty God, who has promised that they who wait upon thee shall renew their strength and mount up with wings, as eagles, we commend to thy fatherly protection all who serve in the Royal Air Force. Uplift and support them in their endeavour, that they may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth and a sure defence to our homeland. Help them to fulfil their several duties with honour, goodwill and integrity, and grant that they may prove to be worthy successors of those who by their valour and sacrifice did nobly save their day and generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

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.

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.**

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.

All 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 thy love;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All 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.

All Amen.

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!

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 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.

Hymn Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
 pilgrim though this barren land;
 I am weak, but thou art mighty;
 hold me with thy powerful hand;
 Bread of heaven,
 feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
strong Deliverer,
be thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee.