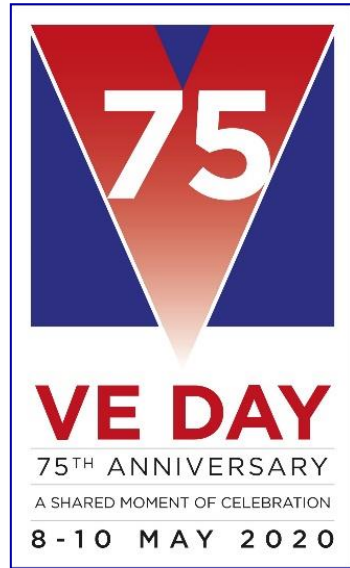


## Together 4 Fromeside Churches

*Although most VE Day 75 Anniversary events have rightly been cancelled, as local churches we offer the following ideas to mark the day as a community while remaining in our homes on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We hope to join together more freely to mark the VJ 75 Anniversary on August 15<sup>th</sup>.*



75 years ago today Winston Churchill announced to the people of the United Kingdom that the war in Europe was over.

Today we give thanks for the peace which followed nearly 6 years of World War, we commemorate the lives of all of those who died in armed conflict or as civilians, we remember the sacrifices made by so many at home and abroad, we hold before God all places of war and violence today, the members of the Armed Forces serving at this time, and those they leave behind, and we pray in hope and faith for peace.

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,  
the Prince of Peace,  
whose will it is that wars may cease,  
and all people know his peace.

### Prayer

Lord our God,  
our defence in trouble and our refuge from the storm,  
hear us as we remember and pray  
on this 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe,  
help us never to forget the sacrifices  
which won for us our freedom,  
and bless your world with peace;  
for we ask it in the name of the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

### A Cry for Peace Around the World

Citizens, one and all,  
Please join this cry for peace, that you now hear from me.  
Remember men & women, old & young, who died to make us free.  
The women left at home did not just sit and wait.  
They toiled in harsh conditions before dawn to very late.  
Factories, farms, other essential jobs, to women were quick at learning.  
They worked, some died, to keep the home fires burning.  
As we remember this special day, do not forget that every day someone needs your aid,

Do not put away your poppies, letting your memories fade.  
Celebrate with knowledge that VE Day is also a time to  
remember,  
Beyond the solemn wreaths of the 11<sup>th</sup> of November.  
Let's thank all those who have gone before, with their colours  
proudly unfurled.  
Join us as unite we say, peace to all the world.

### Prayer

We pray for the power to be gentle;  
the strength to be forgiving;  
the patience to be understanding;  
and the endurance to accept the consequences  
of holding on to what we believe to be right

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil  
and the power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe  
in a world emancipated from violence,  
a new world where fear shall no longer lead men or women to  
commit injustice,  
nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy  
to the task of making peace,  
praying always for the inspiration and the power  
to fulfil the destiny for which we and all men and women were  
created. **Amen**

### Romans 8:31-39 NRSV

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us,  
who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but  
gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us  
everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect?  
It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus,  
who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God,  
who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the  
love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or  
famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,  
"For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through  
him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor  
life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to  
come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all  
creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in  
Christ Jesus our Lord.

### Hymn – Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4BVqj\\_V4gM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4BVqj_V4gM)

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;  
Where there is injury your pardon, Lord;  
And where there's doubt true faith in you.

Refrain:

*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;  
Where there is darkness, only light;  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
In giving to all men that we receive;  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

### **John 20:19-21**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

### **Prayers**

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. **Amen.**

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 and glory of your name  
and the good of your Church and people;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Tribute to The Millions**

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.

*Two-minute silence*

## **Prayer**

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.

*From the Royal Navy Order of service for VE Day 75*

## **Toast to the Heroes of WWII**

Join with the nation at 3.00pm, stand outside the house and raise a toast (choose your own beverage!) with the words: *To those who gave so much, we thank you.*