

**OYEZ! OYEZ!**  
**VE Day 75th Anniversary**  
**1945-2020**



Clipart Town Crier  
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**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.**

**Sebastian Temple 1928-97**

**Sunday Reflection**

**10th May 2020**

**Created for you by**

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## HYMN

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  
    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  
    Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek...

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

**Sebastian Temple (1928-1997)**  
**From the Prayer of St Francis**

## **PRAYER for VE Day**

Dear Lord,

We tend to think it is easy to look back,

Sometimes it is, often it is not.

Memories fade, images get blurred, and the generation that knew the event best are increasingly taken from us.

As a mark of great respect, Lord, we long to acknowledge their courage; learn from what they endured, and ultimately be better people as a result of the sacrifices they made and the faith they upheld.

Thank you, Lord, for this opportunity to honour the lives of those who endured the worst that the war years brought and came safely through it.

Thank you for the hope they give to us today, as we in turn have our own battle against a virus to win.

In honouring them, we do not fail to forget those who paid the ultimate price; those who did not come home to dance and sing in the streets, embrace their loved ones, or see the fulfilment of what they longed for. They are now part of that great cloud of unseen witnesses and dwell forever in your eternal peace.

As the torchbearers of a new generation, help us, Lord God, to keep the light of their memory burning, not just in the pages of history, but deep within the heart of our communities and world.

Lord, we lift up our hands, raise a toast, and do indeed cry out:

“To those who gave so much, we thank you and honour you, as we do our very best to remember you. Amen

## **SCRIPTURE**

### **A Time for Everything**

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die

A time to plant and a time to uproot

A time to kill and a time to heal

A time to tear down and a time to build

A time to weep and a time to laugh

A time to mourn and a time to dance

A time to be silent and a time speak

A time to love and a time to hate

A time for war and a time for peace.

From Ecclesiastes 3 NIV

### **The New Jerusalem**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

From Revelation 21 NIV

### **Peace**

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you."

From St John 14 NIV

## **VE Day 75th Anniversary**

**Victory in Europe Day** marks the day on which allied forces announced the surrender of Germany in Europe. The document of surrender became effective on 8th May, 1945. It did not end the War but six years of war that had cost the lives of millions was coming to a close. VE Day sparked celebrations around the world.

A national holiday was declared

People waved flags

Bonfires were lit across the nations

People were dancing and singing in the streets

Celebratory food was eaten which included

Dripping sandwiches; corned beef hash, liver casserole,

Pork faggots with onion gravy and mash, eggless fruit cake

Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister made a special

Announcement

The Royal family made no less than 8 appearances to the crowds - the little princesses joined the celebrations

King George VI spoke to the Nation on the radio, paying

Tribute to those who "laid down their lives"

Today we still honour those who lay down their lives

## **POEM**

### **They laid down their lives**

He was wearing Army fatigues  
She was wearing a nurses uniform  
Some were weak, others strong  
She could run free  
Too many were hirpling with sticks  
He lived alone  
She was a much loved member of a family  
Others had no one to call a friend  
Some were dressed in the finest clothes  
A few in tatty old rags  
Most were ordinary folks like you and me  
Some came from abroad  
The majority lived here at home  
He was young  
She was old  
All of them laid down their lives

**Written by Jean Wardlaw Gallacher © JWG 2020**

## PRAYER

Gracious God,

Every generation has its crosses to bear and challenges to face,  
Life is not perfect and neither are we.

Thank you for those who come to our aid; those who work to bring peace into our troubled world, and those who stand up for us when we are struggling to stand up for ourselves.

Gracious God,

As we mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, we thank you for the men and women in our armed forces who defend our country, protect our rights and show tremendous courage.

We thank you for those in our emergency services who go beyond the call of duty to keep us safe, and the many volunteers who often go unnoticed, yet without whom our lives would not be the same.

Gracious God, you desire that all your people should live in your peace. Grant us the humility to seek your forgiveness and the will to practise it in our dealings with others.

Then, Lord God, we might have less crosses to bear and less challenges to face.

Let there be peace, dear Lord, in our hearts, in our homes, in our community and in our world—and as in the words of an old, well known song, let it begin with me.

Amen

The Normandy landings in June 1944 had proved instrumental in achieving victory for the allies, as had the huge eastern offensive of the USSR

### **What did VE Day mean for those who had endured years of conflict?**

- It meant that they had come out the other side of a difficult time
- It meant that they could celebrate and express their thanks
- It meant they could begin to build a new life, which would take time
- It meant light and hope after years of darkness and fear

Sometimes looking back, helps us to look forward

### **When will our “VE Day Celebrations” marking the end of Covid 19 take place?**

Oh how we long to get to the other side of our difficult time too.

Oh how we long to build a new life, but know it will take time

Let us draw inspiration and build up our resilience from those who have shown us the way to get through life’s greatest demands and challenges

Although a three day celebration marking the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, understandably, had to be cancelled, solo pipers and bell ringers still found safe places to herald the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

People in homes across the land still raised a toast to those who had given so much and on a Thursday at 8pm, people clap for the NHS

## **POEM**

Ring out those bells

Clap your hands

Do not let them be silent

For they herald a message of peace

As much for today as for yesterday

Ring out those bells

Clap your hands

Loudly and proudly

Do not hold back

Let the whole world know

That we are in it together

From the youngest to the oldest

The strongest to the weakest

The bravest to the most anxious

Ring out those bells

Clap your hands

Let them be heard near and far

The note they strike is hope

**Written by Jean W Gallacher © 2020**

## Heralds of Good News

The town crier was also called a bellman, usually a town official, dressed in a robe, swinging a bell and crying out OYEZ! OYEZ! to attract attention to his public announcements and proclamations.

On VE Day, May 1945, a crowd of 50,000 was packed into Piccadilly Circus waving flags. At 3pm Prime Minister Winston Churchill broadcast from the War cabinet Office to tell the nation war was over. This was the same room Neville Chamberlain had announced that country was at war in 1939.

Some had started their celebrations early and didn't wait for the official celebrations on May 8th. They longed to be the town criers of their day, heralds of the good news.

Understandably, for those who had lost loved ones it was a bittersweet day and many widows did not take part in the celebrations. I would like to think the Nation remembered them.

It was hoped that on 8th May 2020, bells would be rung across the nation, pealing out a message of peace and goodwill to all peoples across the globe.

Whether it be the bittersweet sound of just one solitary piper or the majesty of a whole peal of bells calling us to remember others or pray in times of crisis and recovery, the sound of bells ringing and pipers playing is deeply rooted in our culture and is a simple way to proclaim a message—even when we are apart.

We are heralds of God's Word, proclaimers of peace and hope.

Let that message and those virtues ring out in our hearts and homes today.

## **PEACE**

Through the eyes of children

## **POEM**

Peace is like a young mother

Walking with her son

Hand in hand

A smile of happiness

On her face:

And you knowing

You will not have

To meet her again in the street

Ten years later

Wearing black,

Tearful and wrinkled

A look of endless grief

In her eyes

Which nothing can console

Peace is all this

For us and for other people as well

All of this and much

Much more

**Written by Shai Ben Moshe, 13 years**

## **BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON PEACE**

In its classical understanding, peace, was personified as the youthful female Pax, holding in her left arm a horn of plenty to signify God's riches and in her right hand an olive branch as a symbol of reconciliation.

In the Bible peace is a key characteristic of God and a prominent concept. The Bible's prominent meaning of peace is political. But the political meanings of peace are also associated with emotional and physical meanings along with numerous images from the military, agriculture and home. The Hebrew noun refers to being uninjured, safe and sound, or whole. The Greek refers mainly to being in political peace.

The Bible builds onto this image the larger truth of complete reconciliation, physical and emotional between feuding parties. In the Bible genuine peace is always just and moral. Peace is seeking the well-being of others and of oneself. Jesus preached the "good news of peace," healing and doing good. (Acts 10: 36 RSV)

The biblical peacemaker, an ambassador of peace, someone who ended wars, brought physical safety and health to people, sought people's wellbeing, and brought justice, is therefore physician as well as a prophet. Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

In the Bible aspects of peace are expressed in a variety of interesting figurative images; as a scouting patrol that advances to observe the enemy's land, or as a messenger (dove) Genesis 8:8-12

God will give peace to a repentant Jerusalem in the same way as a mother provides a stream of milk to a nursing child. (Isaiah 66: 10-13)

If a home welcomes God's messenger, that messenger's "peace" remains there; if not, the peace returns to the messenger (Matthew 10:13) Peace cannot remain where it is not welcome.

Peace also is the fruit sown by the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22)

## PRAYER

Lord, many people are anxious just now,  
there is little peace in their hearts, as much as we long for there  
to be.

Parents are worried about their children, who are unsettled and  
restless, cooped up at home

Children are worried about their elderly parents who long to  
see their smile and hear their voices but distance keeps them  
apart

New mums to be long for the calm reassurance that only family  
members can give them

In ten years time we will meet people who still have no peace in  
their hearts because they know that loved ones were taken  
from them too early; they did not get a chance to grieve their  
loss, or ever find answers to the many questions that run wild in  
their restless minds.

Oh how they wish, peace for them was like a young mother  
walking with her son, hand in hand. Instead, peace for them  
takes the shape of anger and resentment, pain or sadness.

Break into all of these lives, Lord God, with your incredible  
healing power and bring hope and courage, if not yet peace.

If it cannot come today, let it come eventually. Amen.

## HYMN

Peace is flowing like a river  
Flowing out through you and me  
Spreading out into the desert  
Setting all the captives free

Love is flowing like a river  
Flowing out through you and me  
Spreading out into the desert  
Setting all the captives free

Faith is flowing like a river  
Flowing out through you and me  
Spreading out into the desert  
Setting all the captives free

Hope is flowing like a river  
Flowing out through you and me  
Spreading out into the desert  
Setting all the captives free

**Mission Praise No: 554**

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# **Blessing**

**Go and proclaim  
God's peace  
For you are the  
Heralds of God's Word  
And the blessings of God the Father,  
The Son and the Holy Spirit  
Be with you always  
Amen**

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- Hymn: CH4: 528:      Make me a channel of your peace**  
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- Hymn: MP: 554      Peace is flowing like a river**  
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- Poem                Ring out those bells**  
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- Scripture            Ecclesiastes 3 NIV; Revelation 21 NIV; John 14 NIV**