



VE DAY 80



St Lawrence
with St Paul
Longridge

All Age Service

2025 — Following Jesus in reconciliation

VE Day commemoration

Sunday 11th May 2025 at 10:00am
St. Paul's Church, Longridge



Our service today celebrates the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe, you can help us to do that by colouring in this picture.

Please join us for our online broadcast at 10:00am on our YouTube channel



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Parents please note

Please feel free to go with your children into the other room at any time. There is no need or requirement to sit still in our time together.

We are live streaming this service so if you do not want your child to be shown on screen, please do talk to a member of the Children's Church team.

The Welcome, notices and greeting

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.

Welcome in the name of Christ.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you

and also with you.

Setting the scene

Dear friends, today we meet together to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Allied Victory in Europe. It is a day of celebration, because it marks the end of a dark, sad time of death, destruction and division. So we are also mindful of our need for God's forgiveness for the desire to dominate others. A sin that leads to conflict between people, and war between nations. And as we remember the many soldiers, sailors, and air crew who gave their lives fighting evil and opposing tyranny, so we also give thanks for those who continue to strive for peace on this continent.

Like those who gathered on that first Victory day, we are glad of each other's company, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss. But above all things, we pray that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven, as we join our voices together and 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.**

First song

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name

(REPEAT)

*Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong
in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all*

When darkness seems
to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

*Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong
in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all*

When He shall come
with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne

*Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong
in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all*

Introduction

A light after the darkness

Later in our Bible reading this morning, Jesus is visiting the temple in Jerusalem. Like us in church this morning, he was there to celebrate a great feast day, called Hannukah. Hannukah was a festival of lights, when people remembered that a time of darkness had ended when the temple was rededicated to God. The eight lights of Hannukah reminded people of God's presence, protection and faithfulness.

This morning we too are remembering the end of a time of darkness, a time when the lights came back on all across Europe and to help us to celebrate that, we too will light three candles. For us they will be symbols of hope, resilience and freedom, a reminder that Jesus, is the true light of the world.

As we light the first candle, we give thanks for hope — the light that shines in darkness, a promise that better days will come.

Jesus, Light of the world, shine your hope in our hearts.

As we light the second candle, we remember resilience — the strength to keep going when times are hard, the courage to stand for what is right.

Jesus, Light of the world, shine your strength in our lives.

As we light the third candle, we celebrate freedom — the gift of peace and the power to choose love, the joy of living without fear.

Jesus, Light of the world, shine your freedom in our world.

Jesus, you are the light no darkness can overcome. Help us to carry your light of hope, strength, and freedom into every place we go. Amen.

Action song

My Lighthouse

In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace
in my troubled sea,
You are the peace in my troubled sea

In the silence, You won't let go
In the questions, Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace
in my troubled sea,
You are the peace in my troubled sea

*My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness,
I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
I will trust the promise,
You will carry me safe to shore
(Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore*

I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace
in my troubled sea,
You are the peace
in my troubled sea,
My lighthouse, my lighthouse...

Fire before us,
You're the brightest
You will lead us through
the storms (repeat)
My lighthouse, my lighthouse...

Saying sorry

It is much, much easier to get lost in the darkness than it is to get lost in the light. Often when we talk about times of war and conflict, we talk about lost generations or lost years, or about the loss of goodness, or the loss of youth. Sometimes we get lost because, we have no choice but to follow paths that are full of danger. Sometimes we get lost because we choose not to listen to trusted guides. Those like Jesus who protect and care for us, wherever we may wander.

Jesus says we are like sheep — and he is our shepherd. He knows us. He never loses us. And no one can snatch us away from him — not even war, fear, or sadness. So let us say sorry for the times when we lose sight of him or ignore his guidance.

Loving God, We are sorry for the times we've wandered away from you. When we've been lost in worry, in anger, or in fear. Thank you that you never give up on us. Help us to listen for your voice and trust your way.

Loving God, forgive us and help us.

Jesus, our Shepherd, We are sorry for the times we've gone our own way, when we thought we knew better, and didn't follow your loving lead. Forgive us, and bring us back to your safe path.

Loving God, forgive us and help us.

God of peace, We are sorry for the brokenness in our world— for the times we forget to love, for the hurt we cause, and the voices we ignore. Lead us back to goodness, to kindness, and to you.

Loving God, forgive us and help us.

Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice... I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." So we can be sure: Even when we wander, God's love finds us. Even when we fail, God's grace forgives us. Even when we're afraid, God's hand holds us fast. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Bible Reading

John 10:22-30 (NIRV)

Then came the Feast of Hanukkah at Jerusalem. It was winter. Jesus was in the temple courtyard walking in Solomon's Porch. The Jews who were gathered there around Jesus spoke to him. They said, "How long will you keep us waiting? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I did tell you. But you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name are a witness for me. But you do not believe, because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never die. No one will steal them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than anyone. No one can steal them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Song

God is our strength and refuge
Our present help in trouble
And we therefore will not fear
Though the earth should change
Though mountains shake
and tremble
Though swirling floods are raging
God the Lord of hosts
is with us evermore

There is a flowing river
Within God's holy city
God is in the midst of her
She shall not be moved
God's help is swiftly given
Thrones vanish at His presence
God the Lord of hosts
is with us evermore

Come see the works of our Maker
Learn of His deeds all-powerful
Wars will cease across the world
When He shatters the spear
Be still and know your Creator
Uplift Him in the nations
God the Lord of hosts
is with us evermore

Bible Talk

Lights, Voices and Hands

We believe

Let us declare our faith in the God
who never lets us go:

**We believe in God, whose light
shines in the darkness and whose
love will never be lost.**

**We believe in Jesus, the Good
Shepherd, who knows our
names, calls us home, and holds
us safely in his hands.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who
leads us with courage, comforts
us with peace, and helps us walk
in the way of love.**

**This is our faith. This is the light
we follow. Amen.**

Song

Lord of the church
we pray for our renewing
Christ over all our undivided aim
Fire of the Spirit
burn for our enduing
Wind of the Spirit
fan the living flame
We turn to Christ amid our
fear and failing
The will that lacks the
courage to be free
The weary labours all but unavailing
To bring us nearer what a church
should be

Lord of the church
we seek a Father's blessing
A true repentance
and a faith restored
A swift obedience
and a new possessing
Filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord
We turn to Christ
from all our restless striving
Unnumbered voices
with a single prayer-
The living water for our
souls' reviving
In Christ to live and
love and serve and care

Lord of the church
we long for our uniting
True to one calling by
one vision stirred
One cross proclaiming
and one creed reciting
One in the truth of
Jesus and His word
So lead us on till toil
and trouble ended
One church triumphant
one new song shall sing
To praise His glory risen
and ascended
Christ over all the everlasting King

Fathers hand prayers

Jesus said that he and the Father were one and that no one could steal his sheep out of his hand. I think that means through Jesus we are held safe in God's love forever.

On the way into church, you were given a card in the shape of a hand and while the worship group play, you are invited to write on that card the name of someone who brings you peace; or the name of someone you would like God to hold safely; or maybe in remembrance one of your relatives who died in a war, or perhaps a prayer of peace for the whole world. In each case, we thank God for his promise of eternal life, to those who hear his voice.

When you have finished, please place the hand on the table in front of the dais. When all the hands have been placed we will trust them all to God, using the words below.

Gracious God, we thank you for every name and prayer that are written on these hands. We ask your protection and guidance on those who hold us safely and on those who look to us for comfort. Thank you God that no one can steal us from your hand.

Jesus, our Shepherd
Keep us safe in your love

Faithful God, we remember all the men and women who gave their lives in the war, especially in the Second World War, so that peace could come. Thank you for their bravery. Help us to honour them by choosing peace and kindness. We trust in your love and your future.

Jesus, our Shepherd
Keep us safe in your love

Holy God, please watch over all the people who work in the armed forces today. Keep them safe when they are in danger. Give them courage when things are hard, and help them rest when they are tired. May they serve with kindness and strength, just like Jesus did.

Jesus, our Shepherd
Keep us safe in your love

Loving God, You want the whole world to be filled with peace. Please bring your love to the places where people are angry, sad, or fighting. Bring peace to our homes, peace to our world, and peace in our hearts.

Jesus, our Shepherd
Keep us safe in your love

God of all comfort, we pray for those who earthly life has come to an end. Remembering today the family and friends of Kathleen Bretherton, Marian Hargreaves and David Waterman. We thank you Lord for all that was good in their lives and pray that even now, they are held safe in your loving hands

Jesus, our Shepherd
Keep us safe in your love

A Rededication to Peace

Will you work for peace and
reconciliation in your homes
and communities, and strive to
promote peace and goodwill in the
world.

We will

Will you commit to an honest
remembrance of the cost of war
and resist all forms of hatred, evil
and injustice?

We will

Will you recognise that freedoms
and responsibilities are hard won,
and exercise them with gratitude,
generosity and humility

We will

In this commemoration of 80
years since VE Day, let us dedicate
ourselves anew to one another
and to the cause of peace, justice
and liberty as people of faith, hope
and love

The priest says

May God grant us courage always
to seek and defend ways of justice
and mercy. **Amen.**

Final Song

*During our final song, a wreath with be laid
on the communion table.*

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

A prayer for King Charles

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign, King Charles and all who are in authority under him; 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**



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The National Anthem

God save our gracious King!
Long live our noble King!
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On him be pleased to pour,
Long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

The final blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the King, 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.

*Please join us in the Centenary Room
after the service for tea and coffee,
refreshments and a chat.*



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Please note...

Thank you to everyone who supported yesterday's VE Day Themed Spring Fair The total raised will be announced.

.....
 Revd. Simon's last Sunday as our Curate will be the 18th May So this is the final opportunity to donate towards his leaving gift. Donations should be given to Revd. Mike or one of the Churchwardens.

.....
 Revd. Simon & Tracy's Farewell Party will be on Saturday 24th May starting at 3.30pm in St. Paul's - an opportunity to celebrate the last four years with food, fun and fellowship. Everyone is invited but to help with catering please add your name to the list that's in both churches if you are able to come along.

.....
 Revd. Simon's Induction as Vicar of St. Leonard's Church Penwortham is on Thursday 19th June at 7.30pm and a Bretherton's 49 seater coach has been booked so that we can travel together. This will leave Church Street at 6.30pm picking up at Stone Bridge. Again please sign the sheet at the back of both Churches to reserve your seat. The cost will be £8 payable on the night.



Those Departed

REST IN PEACE

Kathleen 'Kath' Bretherton
Marian Hargreaves
David Waterman

History Society

There will be a meeting this
Thursday 15th May in St. Paul's
Church Centenary Room

7:30– 9:30pm

Speaker– Paul Hindle

'Turnpikes & Maps
in the North West'

Brew Time

**Every Wednesday from 8.50am-
11am in St Paul's Centenary Room.**

*Serving tea, coffee, toast,
crumpets and cakes!*

There's always a warm and friendly
welcome. Do join us we would love
to see you.

Kath & Jacqui, Bev & John

The Welcome Café

Meet weekly on Wednesdays during
the school term in St. Paul's Church
Centenary Room 3:00– 5:00pm

Our Services for next Sunday

Fifth Sunday of Easter
18th May 2025

10.00am Holy Communion

Including Children's Church and
livestream at St. Paul's Church

6:30pm Evensong

at St. Lawrence's Church

Tuesday Club

Next meeting is this week
Tuesday 13th May

'Rosy Goat Ice Cream'

A chance to try a very special ice cream
in the Centenary Rooms at St. Paul's
Church.

Non members welcome—£2



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