

Prayers on VE Day

Many of our communities had been planning big celebrations for today, but our present circumstances mean we are unable to meet together. Here are some prayer suggestions and a Bible reading you may find helpful. We'll use some of these in our prayer meeting on Friday. Don't forget our All Age service on Sunday to celebrate VE Day and there are lots of special programmes scheduled on the TV over the weekend.

Heaviness may endure for a night:
All But joy comes in the morning.
God has been our refuge and our strength:
All A present help in time of trouble.

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name
Your Kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who
sin against us.
Lead us nor into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are
yours,
now and forever. Amen**

Bible Reading

Micah 4:1-4

In the last days
the mountain of the Lord's temple will be
established

as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and peoples will stream to it.

² Many nations will come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of
the Lord,

to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,

so that we may walk in his paths.'

The law will go out from Zion,

the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

³ He will judge between many peoples
and will settle disputes for strong nations
far and wide.

They will beat their swords into ploughshares

and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war any more.

⁴ Everyone will sit under their own vine
and under their own fig-tree,
and no one will make them afraid,
for the Lord Almighty has spoken.

Prayers

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
We pray for the leaders of the nations,
that you will guide them in the ways of
freedom, justice and truth.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who bear arms on behalf of
the nation,
that they may have discipline and
discernment,
courage and compassion.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We pray for our enemies, and those who wish
us harm,
that you will turn the hearts of all to kindness
and friendship.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We pray for the wounded and the captive,
the grieving and the homeless,
that in all their trials they may know your love
and support.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

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.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer

And in our own time of crisis:
Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from
your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

**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. **Amen.**