**saint**cuthberts

north wembley



**VE Day 2020 Prayer Service**

**The Greeting and Introduction**

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.**

**Thanks and Prayers**

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.**

**Readings :**

Isaiah 61: 1

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
    because the Lord has anointed me  
    to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
    to proclaim freedom for the captives  
    and release from darkness for the prisoners

Revelation 21

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

**Talk**

**:** The cost of freedom: The Reverend Steve Morris

**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.**

**Final and special 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. **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. **Amen.**

**Listen to Anna’s music**