

Liberation Sunday

Prayers, Readings, Reflection.

“Welcome to a short act of worship for the Parish Church of St Martin, as we remember and celebrate the Liberation of our Islands 77 years ago. For those who are able to follow it as written, I hope it offers some comfort, encouragement and a sense of being together despite the distance between us.” Rev Jonny



Be still, and draw yourself closer to the God who rests beside you, before you and within you.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

In the name of Christ and in his peace I welcome you.

Today, those who survived the war and we who are too young to remember, join together in giving praise and thanks to God for what was achieved in 1945, but whilst remembering, we also look forward and commit ourselves to the ongoing work of reconciliation.

Our proclamation today is that we have a message of hope and reconciliation for the whole world. That we must love our neighbours as ourselves.

O Lord, open our lips.

All: And our mouths shall show forth Thy praise.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND REMEMBRANCE

Let us offer our thanksgivings to Almighty God,
who made us and all creation,
who in Christ has triumphed over evil and death,
and whose Spirit abides with us to guide and to inspire.

For the victory achieved on land, at sea, and in the air,
and for the liberation of so many from the cruelty
of occupation and oppression

Pause for silence....

Let us bless the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

For those who endured captivity, torture, or death,
that others might be free.

Pause for silence....

Let us bless the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

For the heroism and courage of those who served in the
armed services;
who worked on the home front in civil defence,
hospitals and relief agencies; in factories, shops and farms.

Pause for silence....

Let us bless the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

For the patient suffering and dedication of those who kept
alight the lamp
of freedom and sustained hope and resistance in the hearts
of others.

Pause for silence....

Let us bless the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

For the steadfastness and endurance of the inhabitants of
cities
and countryside during the dark years of war.

Pause for silence....

Let us bless the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

For the reconstruction of communities
and for the reconciliation seen over the past 77 years.

Pause for silence....

Let us bless the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading, Acts 1:3-8

After his suffering Jesus presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Second Reading, Galatians 5: 1 & 13-15

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

PRAYERS OF HOPE

Let us pray with hope for the future of the world
and for the needs of all people.

For peace and justice in our world,
for an end to war and conflict,
for the leaders of all nations and peoples,
and for those who make peace and foster reconciliation.

pause for silence....

Lord, in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

For the unity of all Christian people,
For the Church of God in every land,
For all who seek God and the truth,
And for all who follow the way of conscience with integrity.

Pause for silence....

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

For the healing of memories,
For all those who suffer as a result of war,
For all who find it hard to forgive,
For communities where past wrongs and violence persist,
For all in pain or distress
and those who care for them.

Pause for silence....

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

For friendship and trust amongst all,
For an appreciation of our interdependence,
For the ongoing building of a new Europe,
And for a world that is in harmony with itself.

Pause for silence....

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And we pray for the coming of God's Kingdom on earth as in heaven and pray together the words our Lord gave us:

**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**

Hymn

This hymn was written by The Revd F. W. Killer, Vicar of St Mark's and printed during the Occupation of Jersey for use on the Day of Liberation.

**The sword is sheathed – the battle done,
The conflict past – the peace is won;
Alleluia, alleluia;
Raise high your songs of Victory,
Shout: for the Lord hath made us free,
Alleluia, alleluia;
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Fair Islands of the Channel Sea
Greet well this dawn of Liberty;
Alleluia, alleluia;
Peal forth sweet bells that all may hear
Your joyful message ringing clear.
Alleluia, alleluia;
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gone is the plague of hatred rife,
Gone those dark days of mental strife,
Alleluia, alleluia;
This is our day of glad release,
And restoration to full peace.
Alleluia, alleluia;
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For hands unfettered we rejoice,
In freedom's speech we raise our voice,
Alleluia, alleluia;
Let Jersey's hills and valleys ring
With songs of peace re-echoing.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

PRAYER FOR LIBERATION

Lord Jesus Christ
you have set us free from all that is evil.
We give you thanks for the end of warfare which
Brought liberation to this Island –
For the service and sacrifice of all who made the Liberation
possible,
For the companionship of friends and family
Which sustained us through the Occupation,
For the years of peace,
And for the years of growing reconciliation between nations
Which once were enemies.

Very thankful for all that is good in life,
We pray for those now held captive by political or spiritual
powers.
That all people may know
The glorious liberty of the children of God:
For you were born and died to save us,
And now live and reign with the Father,
And the Holy Spirit, one God,
World without end. Amen

PRAYERS OF RECONCILIATION

Remembering that peace is not universal and wars
continue,
let us commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation
and peace throughout the world according to God's will

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself:

He has entrusted us with the message of reconciliation.

When anyone is united to Christ there is a new creation:
The old order has gone; a new order has already begun.

He has entrusted us with the message of reconciliation:
In Christ's name be reconciled to God.

(from St Paul's 2nd letter to the church at Corinth, 5:17-20)

BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good; render to no-one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour all people;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

be among us and remain with us always.

Amen.