



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION YPRES BRANCH



A Service of Thanksgiving

Friday 8 May 2020

WELCOME

The Reverend Stephen Murray, Chaplain

VE DAY SPEECH BY HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI

INTRODUCTION

Read by WWII Veteran George Sutherland and Chelsea Hindryckx, member

At 2.41 pm on 7th May 1945 in a school house in Rheims, France, unconditional surrender was signed: active operations by the German Forces would cease by 11.01 pm the next day. And so, on 8th May 1945, the news the nations of Europe had been waiting for arrived. War in Europe was over!

Today, 75 years later, we remember, and we celebrate.

Op 7 mei 1945 om 14u41 werd in een school in Reims, Frankrijk, de onvoorwaardelijke overgave ondertekend. De Duitse troepen beëindigden tegen 23u01 de volgende dag hun operaties. En zo kwam dus op 8 mei 1945 het nieuws waarop de Europese naties hadden gewacht: de oorlog in Europa was voorbij! Vandaag, 75 jaar later, herdenken we en vieren we.

OPENING PRAYER

The Reverend Stephen Murray, Chaplain

We come before the presence of God.

We commit ourselves to work for reconciliation between the nations;

That all people may live together in freedom, justice and peace.

We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

And we celebrate the gifts of lasting peace: democracy, religious freedom, equality, justice for all. **Amen.**

POEM *'Unmentioned in Dispatches'* by Peter Wyton

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Christophe Onraet MBE, Vice-President

*Some of them never come home to fanfares,
they dump their kitbags down at the door,
kiss their wives and let their children
wrestle them down to the kitchen floor,
switch the telly on, pour out a whiskey,
search for the local football score.*

*Some of them skip the quayside welcome,
dodge the bunting and cannonade,
make their landfall in silent harbours,
nod to the coastguard, but evade
the searchlight of public scrutiny
like those engaged in the smuggling trade.*

*Some of them land at lonely airfields
far removed from the celebration,
hang their flying gear in a locker,
cadge a lift to the railway station,
make for home and take for granted
the short-lived thanks of a grateful nation.*

*Some of them miss the royal salute,
the victory parade along the Mall,
the fly-past, the ships in formation passing
the cheering crowds on the harbour wall.
Remembered only by friends and relatives,
some of them never come home at all.*

HOMILY

The Reverend Stephen Murray, Chaplain

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by Lizzie Brawley, Chairman

Let us pray:

Let us give thanks for the selfless and courageous service and sacrifice of those who brought peace to Europe, and for the good example they have given us; in your mercy,

All **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for nations still devastated by war, for their people and their leaders, and for those who suffer the effects or memories of past wars; for veterans, for those who mourn, and for all innocent victims whose lives have been shattered by the cruelty of others; in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us give thanks for those who work for peace and liberty throughout the world, for the Armed Forces, and for all who strive to bring an end to injustice and oppression; in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those in our own day who have grown weary or lost hope as a result of violence or terror; for all refugees and displaced people, and for those who seek to address the causes of discord and distrust; in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us give thanks for the reconciliation of former enemies, for the flourishing of goodwill between them, and for the many blessings we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace; in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the young people of our own day and for all who will shape the future of our nations, that they may be inspired by those who have gone before them to serve as they have been served; in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the reconciliation of former enemies and for the flourishing of goodwill between them, and for the many freedoms and benefits we enjoy as a result of the sacrifices which have made for peace; in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Reverend Stephen Murray, Chaplain

We say together, each in the language of our heart, the prayer which Jesus himself taught 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 in temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Notre Père, qui es aux cieux, que ton nom soit sanctifié, que ton règne vienne, que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel. Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour. Pardonne-nous nos offenses, comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés. Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation mais délivre-nous du Mal. Car c'est à Toi qu'appartiennent le règne, la puissance et la gloire pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.

Onze Vader, die in de hemel zijt, Uw naam worde geheiligd, Uw rijk kome, Uw wil geschiede op aarde zoals in de hemel. Geef ons heden ons dagelijks brood en vergeef ons onze schulden, zoals ook wij vergeven aan onze schuldenaren, en breng ons niet in beproeving, maar verlos ons van het kwade. Want van U is het koninkrijk, en de kracht en de heerlijkheid tot in eeuwigheid. Amen.

THE LAST POST

Bjorn Hindryckx, Standard Bearer

Please stand

The Last Post is sounded.

Silence is kept.

Reveille is sounded.

BRITISH NATIONAL ANTHEM

please remain standing

**God save our gracious Queen, Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen;
Send her victorious, Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us, God save the Queen.**

BELGIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

please remain standing

**O dierbaar België, o heilig land der
vaad'ren, Onze ziel en ons hart zijn
u gewijd. Aanvaard ons kracht en
het bloed van onze aad'ren, Wees
ons doel in arbeid en in strijd.
Bloei, o land, in eendracht niet te
breken, wees immer u zelf, en
ongeknecht. Het woord getrouw
dat g' onbevreesd moogt spreken.
Voor Vorst, voor Vrijheid en voor
Recht!**

**Noble Belgique, ô mère chérie,
À toi nos cœurs, à toi nos bras,
À toi notre sang, ô Patrie !
Nous le jurons tous, tu vivras !
Tu vivras toujours grande et belle
Et ton invincible unité
Aura pour devise immortelle :
le Roi, la Loi, la Liberté!**

ACT OF REDEDICATION

Led by George Sutherland and Chelsea Hindryckx

We fought for peace, that the world might never again know such violence and destruction.

Will you work for peace and reconciliation in your homes and communities, and promote peace throughout the world?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

We fought for justice, that the scourge of prejudice and oppression might never again take root in our societies.

Will you work for a world in which hatred and injustice never have the final word, and where all people can flourish with dignity and hope?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

We struggled so that the whole human family might know good will, security, and freedom.

Will you always acknowledge how precious are the gifts which God has entrusted to us, and exercise the freedoms and responsibilities you have with gratitude and humility?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

May almighty God, who has given us the will to undertake these things, bless us with the strength to perform them. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Reverend Jo Jan Vandenheede, member of The Royal British Legion Branch

Please stand

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the nations and all people, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you and those whom you love, always. **Amen.**

CELEBRATION BELLS

The Bells of St George's Memorial Church



With our sincere and grateful thanks to WWII Veteran George Sutherland, Alex Sutherland, Simon Louagie of Talbot House, Alan Regin and St George's Memorial Church Ypres. Without their help we would not have been able to put this service together

The Service is led by
The Reverend Stephen Murray
Chaplain of The Royal British Legion Ypres Branch and St John's Anglican Church, Ghent
Area Dean of Belgium and Luxemburg
and
The Reverend Jo Jan Vandenheede
Secretary to the Central Committee of the Anglican Churches in Belgium

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DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



St George's
Memorial Church Ypres