

I was talking about my 89 year old dad today about his memories of VE Day. He was 15. 'Relief,' he said. It had been a very dark time. Six years of World War. Huge sacrifices - war is always costly in lives taken and harmed. And on May 8th 1945 the weight of the war was lifted. The Allies had defeated Nazi Germany and the Third Reich - releasing a great national outpouring of celebration and thanksgiving, street parties and all

75 years on, what do we celebrate? Our deep gratitude to our forebears for the world we have grown up in. Our freedom. That our nation helped liberate the peoples of Europe from a great and monstrous evil. For the systems of international cooperation, international Justice, that grew out of this. That a democratic Germany is fully integrated into the community of nations. For the Welfare State and NHS, the domestic fruits of victory. And knowing we cannot take any of this for granted.

And so, as we mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, be inspired by those who have gone before us. And pledge yourself anew in the service of God for the peace and welfare of all nations and peoples:

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.



(Prayer: Church of England Website)

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