

May 2025

Victory in Europe Day May 8th

Jesus said, "No greater love has man than this; that he would lay down his life for his friend." (John 15:13)

On Victory in Europe Day, or V-E Day, May 8th 1945, Germany unconditionally surrendered its military forces to the allies. Celebrations erupted around the world to mark the end of World War II: celebrations born, yes, out of the sweet taste of victory, but more importantly, born out of relief that the war in Europe was over, Hitler had been defeated and no more men, women and children would be killed or injured because of it.

It has been eighty years since the conclusion of this conflict, and whilst it is right to commemorate, we must also thank those service and civilian personnel who still survive; reflect on the sacrifice of all those who died, and reaffirm our commitment to peace.

"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 forever. Amen."

"O God, who would fold both heaven and earth in a single peace; let the design of your great love lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes and peace in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Denise