

Westminster Abbey

20 August 1995 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

**A Service of Remembrance and Commitment
to mark the 50th Anniversary of the end of
the Second World War**

1830

conducted by The Reverend Colin Semper *Canon in Residence
with the Collegiate Singers*
The Preacher is The Very Reverend Michael Mayne *Dean*

Please join in the singing of the hymns and in saying the texts printed in bold.

All stand for the Procession to enter.

THE WELCOME AND BIDDING

Canon Semper says:

We welcome you to this evening service. We come here to worship God, and give thanks for the end of the Second World War, 50 years ago. We have in our hearts most particularly those who were involved in the conflict in Asia and the Pacific.

But in this church, the mother church of the Commonwealth, it is right for us to remember all who lived through that period of war. They shared the conviction that oppression and tyranny must not prevail. We shall affirm our commitment to ensuring the welfare and dignity of the wartime generation. We shall acknowledge with gratitude the courage of men, women and children who, despite the horrors and hardships of war, kept hope alive.

But first we must ask God's forgiveness for that which we contribute to the sin of the world, in these words from Coventry.

The hatred which divides nation from nation,
race from race, class from class,

All say together:

Father forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations
to possess what is not their own.

Father forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands
and lays waste the earth:

Father forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others:

Father forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned,
the homeless and the refugee:

Father forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men,
women and children:

Father forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves
and not in God:

Father forgive.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted,
forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Amen.

HYMN



O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home;

Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

*St Anne 99 AMNS
Supplement to the New Version, 1708*

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

*Psalm 90
Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

All sit for the Right Honourable the Lord Weatherill, member of the Burma Campaign Fellowship Group, to read 1 JOHN 2: 5-11.

The organ plays during a period of reflection.

Silence is kept.

The Choir sings the ANTHEM, specially composed to mark this 50th anniversary:

Rejoice today with one accord,
sing out with exultation;
rejoice and praise our mighty Lord,
whose arm hath brought salvation:
his works of love proclaim
the greatness of his name;
for he is God alone
who hath his mercy shown;
let all his saints adore him.

When in distress to him we cried,
he heard our sad complaining;
O trust to him, whate'er betide,
his love is all-sustaining;
in humble prayer and praise
our hearts to him we raise;
now every voice shall say
'O praise our God alway;
let all his saints adore him.'

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*David Willcocks (b 1919)
based on a melody by Martin Luther (1483-1546)*

*H W Baker (1821-77)
and Philippians 4: 7*

All stand. Canon Semper says:

Let us remember before God all who have died as a result of war, oppression and tyranny.

Silence is kept.

THE KOHIMA EPITAPH

When you go home, tell them of us and say: For your tomorrow, we gave our today.

Silence is kept.

John Nunneley, Committee member, BCFG, says:

FOR THE FALLEN

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning we will remember them.

Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)

All say together:

We will remember them.

All sit. The organ is played as the war and the end of the war are remembered.

All stand to sing the HYMN:



Teach me, my God and King,
in all things thee to see;
and what I do in anything
to do it as for thee.

A man that looks on glass,
on it may stay his eye;
or, if he pleaseth, through it pass,
and then the heaven espy.

All may of thee partake;
nothing can be so mean
which, with this tincture, *For thy sake*,
will not grow bright and clean.

A servant with this clause
makes drudgery divine;
who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
makes that and the action fine.

This is the famous stone
that turneth all to gold;
for that which God doth touch and own
cannot for less be told.

*Sandys 240 AMNS
W Sandys' Christmas Carols (1833)*

George Herbert (1593-1633)

All sit for THE ADDRESS by the Dean.

All kneel or sit for THE PRAYERS.

The Reverend Job Uchida, Chaplain with special responsibility for the Japanese Community in London and former Second World War naval pilot, says:

Let us give thanks for the example of courage and fortitude given to us by men and women who have endured war; and let us pray for all people who suffer, especially those who, having survived conflict, still bear its marks in mind or body; and for all who have been bereaved through war.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us: **Lord graciously hear us.**

Let us give thanks for the gift of peace; and let us pray for all who live now amid conflict, and for those who live in fear of violence or oppression.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Masao Hiramoto, who served in the Japanese army at Kohima, and has been awarded an Honorary OBE for his work for reconciliation between Britain and Japan, says:

Let us give thanks for the reconciliation that has been established between nations once opposed in war; and let us pray for the people of all nations and their leaders, that those divisions that remain may be healed.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Canon Semper says:

Let us give thanks for all who offer care and support to the people of the wartime generation, whether as individuals or through the work of statutory and voluntary bodies, and let us pray that they may have wisdom, vision and compassion in all they do.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

All say together:

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.

All stand. During the singing of THE HYMN a collection is taken. The money from today's services will be divided equally between the Royal British Legion and the work of the Abbey.



Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee;

changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Love divine 131 AMNS
John Stainer (1840-1901)*

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

The procession moves through the Transepts, bearing symbols of peace and then through the Quire to the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior.

The Dean says:

We are all children of the same heavenly Father, whatever our age, whatever our nation or race. Some of us lived through the years of war, others are of a younger generation. But we have a responsibility under God to care for one another.

Silence is kept as the symbols of peace are placed on the Tomb.

The Dean continues:

Will you now remember the causes for which so many endured adversity and for which many fought and died, by promoting peace, justice and reconciliation among all people?

All say together:

By the help of God, we will.

The Dean continues:

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

All say together:

By the help of God, we will.

The Dean continues:

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

A solo voice, accompanied by the Collegiate Singers in procession, sings:

Creator of the earth and skies,
to whom all truth and power belong,
grant us your truth to make us wise;
grant us your power to make us strong.

We have not known you: to the skies
our monuments of folly soar,
and all our self-wrought miseries
have made us trust ourselves the more.

We have not loved you: far and wide
the wreckage of our hatred spreads,
and evils wrought by human pride
recoil on unrepentant heads.

We long to end this worldwide strife:
how shall we follow in your way?
speak to us all your words of life,
until our darkness turns to day.

*Breslau 351 (t 397) AMNS
As Hymnodus Sacer (Leipzig, 1625)*

Donald Wynn Hughes (1911-67)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Members of the Congregation are asked to leave as directed by the Honorary Stewards.
As you leave, you may pause at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior to offer your own
private prayers.*