

Liberation Day Order of Service, 9 May 2020

Listen to the broadcast on BBC Radio Guernsey at 11am and follow the service with the words below. The Service will also be available to view online at 11am on Facebook.com/LiberationGSY and at www.liberationday.gg

The Union flag is introduced

A recording by Max Wong [Largo from Sonata for Solo Violin No. 3, BWV 1005/3 by J S Bach] is played as the standard bearer moves from the entrance to the church up the ramp to the terrace above Market Hill

When the standard bearer is in position, the National Anthem is played, during which the Union flag is dipped in salute

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.

Thy choicest gifts in store
on her be pleased to pour,
long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
and ever give us cause
to sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.

Words: Author unknown (c. 1745)

Tune: Thesaurus Musicus, c. 1743

The standard bearer places the Union flag in the stand and withdraws

The Welcome

The Reverend Matthew Barrett, Rector of St Peter Port, says

I welcome you to this service in which we celebrate the liberation of Guernsey on Wednesday 9 May 1945, 75 years ago. This anniversary is very significant. Many plans had been made for how we would mark the day but, as you know only too well, the arrival of the Covid-19 virus has changed almost every aspect of our lives. The Town Church features in the backdrop to this service; but, as our churches are closed for public worship, we cannot be inside the church as we would have hoped and wished. Nevertheless, and however different today's commemoration is to what so many have planned, we are recalling that remarkable and glorious day when the British troops came ashore in St Peter Port, very close to where I am standing, bringing to an end the five long years of occupation of Guernsey by German troops, and giving hope of an end to the hardship which the people of Guernsey had suffered. That day also dawned with the hope of a return to the Island of those who had spent the years of occupation in the United Kingdom, in Biberach or elsewhere.

Today is a day of thanksgiving for our continuing freedom and self-determination as a Crown dependency. In that thanksgiving, we include also our debt of thanks to those who are sustaining and supporting this Island during the crisis which we, like so many around the world, are facing. We think especially of those who are working in the health services, those who are working to sustain the economic life of our Island, and those who are keeping us safe.

On this Liberation Day, we remember the deportation of large numbers of local residents, including many who were not born in Guernsey, who had faced uncertain and dangerous times as prisoners in Germany. We include amongst them the three Jewish women who were sent to Laval, from where they were transported, with others, to Auschwitz Birkenau.

We give thanks for those who have built links of reconciliation between former enemies and we give thanks for the life that springs from our years of reconciliation and friendship with the people of Biberach. We offer our greetings to them in our sadness that they are not able to travel to Guernsey, nor we to Biberach, because of the global pandemic.

This 75th anniversary is also, for many people, a day in which we recall painful and vivid memories of loss and separation, of hardship and deprivation, of fear and anxiety. We are reminded that peace is both precious and fragile; that we depend on each other for our life and our health and our prosperity; and that too many people in our world do not know the peace and the safety in which we are privileged to live. And so, conscious of the sins and failings of humanity and our own sins and failings, we turn to the living God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Prayers of penitence

Father Bruce Barnes, Catholic Dean and Parish Priest in Guernsey, says

We confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world; its pride, its selfishness and its greed; all that diminishes the common humanity which we share. We confess our share in what is wrong and our failure to seek and establish the peace and security which God wills for all his people.

God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us: Lord have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth, your saving power among the nations: Christ have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation, and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations: Lord have mercy.

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

A hymn is sung (led by the Guernsey Music Service & Town Church choirs)

God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble,
and we therefore will not fear,
though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble,

though swirling floods are raging,
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

There is a flowing river
within God's holy city;
God is in the midst of her -
she shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at his presence -
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

Come, see the works of our maker,
learn of his deeds all-powerful:
wars will cease across the world
when he shatters the spear!
Be still and know your creator,
uplift him in the nations -
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

Words: Richard Bewes (born 1934), based on Psalm 46

Tune: Dambusters' March (Eric Coates, 1886-1958, arranged by John Barnard, b 1948)

First reading

Read by the Bailiff of Guernsey, Sir Richard Collas

Genesis 9 vv 1 & 8-17

God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.'

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Here ends the reading.

Second reading

Read by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, Vice Admiral Sir Ian Corder KBE CB

1 Corinthians 13 vv 8-end

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an

end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Here ends the reading.

The address

The Dean of Guernsey, the Very Reverend Tim Barker

Interlude

You'll never walk alone *played and recorded by the Guernsey Music Centre Youth Choir and Youth Orchestra*

Prayers of thanksgiving

The Reverend Howard Stringer, Superintendent Minister of the Guernsey Methodist Circuit, says

For the liberation of this Island from enemy occupation, 75 years ago today:

Lord, we give you thanks and praise.

For the fortitude and resilience of those who remained here throughout the occupation:

Lord, we give you thanks and praise.

For those who were evacuated or deported from Guernsey and returned safely to their homes and families:

Lord, we give you thanks and praise.

For those who fought long and hard, and who worked to bring about the liberation which we celebrate today:

Lord, we give you thanks and praise.

For the bonds of friendship which have been forged over the years, overcoming old hostilities:

Lord, we give you thanks and praise.

For the freedom we enjoy in this Bailiwick to order our affairs, and to live in liberty and in peace:

Lord, we give you thanks and praise.

For those who are working in this current pandemic to ensure the safety and prosperity of this Island:

Lord, we give you thanks and praise.

For those who are working in our health and care services in our response to COVID-19 and to ensure the physical and mental health of our people:

Lord, we give you thanks and praise.

For Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and the Royal Family:

Lord, we give you thanks and praise.

Eternal God, the refuge and help of all your people, we give you thanks for all that you have given us, for all that you have done for us, for all that you are to us. In our weakness, you are strength; in our darkness, you are light; in our sorrow, you are

comfort and peace. For all your goodness, we give you thanks. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of intercession

Majors James and Claire Hill, The Salvation Army, say

Let us pray to God, who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by Covid-19, through illness or isolation or anxiety, that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are guiding our Bailiwick at this time, and shaping the policies that protect and guide our common life, that they may make wise decisions; for our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth; for the Lieutenant Governor, the Bailiff, the Royal Court, the States of Deliberation and all in authority; that they make wise decisions:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For doctors, nurses, for others who work in health and social care, and for medical researchers, that through their skill and care and insight many will be restored to health:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the vulnerable and the fearful, for the gravely ill and the dying, that they may know your comfort and peace:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the isolated and housebound, that we may be alert to their needs and care for them in their vulnerability:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For our homes and families, for our schools and young people, and for all in any need or distress:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For this Bailiwick, that our Island may be a place of trust and friendship, where all are known and cared for:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For people of goodwill throughout the world, who long for peace and justice, and for an end to this pandemic:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the forces of the Crown, especially those on active service, that they may have discipline and discernment, courage and compassion:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray together:

All **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.**

A hymn is sung (led by the Guernsey Music Service & Town Church choirs)

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (born 1926)

Tune: Lord of the years [Michael Baughen, (born 1930)]

Act of Commitment

The Dean of Guernsey, the Very Revd Tim Barker, says

We have given thanks for the Liberation of Guernsey seventy five years ago in 1945.
Let us now make a commitment to be agents of peace and reconciliation in the world
in whatever ways lie open to us.

All **Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humanity
in the cause of peace, freedom and reconciliation;
to relieve the plight of the poor;
to care for the lonely and friendless;
to model the highest standards of probity and integrity in all that we do;**

and to work for the furtherance of your kingdom on earth.
Give us the courage and determination
to work for the fulfilment of this pledge;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth and all people,
unity, peace and concord;
and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**