

Service for Week 5th -11th May 2025 By Chaplain Andy



Our Opening Prayer.

Loving God, we remember this week all those men and women from all nations who lost their lives in the Second World War. We celebrate the end of that war and pray that the wars and conflicts in Europe and in our world today will end.

As we remember, reflect and honour those who fought and died we remember Jesus' words –
'Blessed are the peacemakers'

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

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

Bible Reading John 10:22-30

Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Jesus was walking in Solomon's Colonnade, an elaborate columned entrance to Jerusalem which was destroyed and does not exist today.

As he was walking people ask Jesus if he is 'the Christ'. The Greek word "Christ" is a translation of the Hebrew word "Messiah" which means "the anointed one" and both words 'Messiah' and 'the anointed one' refer to prophecies that God would one day come in human form.

The Christian faith is unique because we believe that the founder of our faith



is not a prophet or a disciple of God but actually God himself who came in Jesus.

Jesus tells them that he has said before that he is the Christ but they have not believed him. So, to help them understand he tells them a story about something else which is comparable and because they live in a very rural society Jesus talks about sheep as he does in several gospel accounts. I don't believe he is suggesting that people are easily led or weak willed in any way but is talking about a sheep's relationship to their owner.

In our cities and towns, we are perhaps not so familiar with sheep and a sheep's relationship with their shepherd or farmer but that that is something that the people in those days and in that society would have understood very well. Perhaps a better comparison for many today would be the example of a dog's relationship to their owner. Jesus says -they listen to my voice. He is describing the love, care and protection that God gives to those that accept his love. Although my dog knows my voice but is not always so good at following me!

Jesus is talking about the relationship he has with everyone who believes in a loving God and goes on to speak about eternal life. Jesus says 'they shall never perish; no one can snatch them

out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.' He says 'I give them eternal life' and 'I and the Father are one.'

Celebrating the anniversary of the end of the second world war in Europe this week, with under 70,000 (estimated as of 2024) British WW2 veterans who are still alive, our thoughts and prayers are with those that died and especially family members and loved ones.

We thank God for those survivors of that war that are still with us. For those whose lives were lost we remember the relationship that God has with everyone who accepts his care. We can take comfort in Jesus' words 'I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.'

Amen

Closing Prayer.

Father God, I pray for the end to all war and conflicts. I pray for people where war is happening in our world today in the Ukraine, Russia, Congo, Myanmar, Gaza in Israel, Syria, the Sudan and other places.

May Jesus' message of peace change the minds of the perpetrators of war and bring change to the lives of people living in those areas. **Amen.**