



**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020 9:30 am Special Jersey Liberation Day Service led by Revd Tony Morling**

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use on its own, or if you are able to watch the service on social media, to aid following the order of service. Before you begin why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

## Welcome

Thank you for sharing in this service organised by the Methodist Churches in the Island of Jersey as we mark the 75th Anniversary of our Liberation and thank God for freedom.

Irrespective of whether your Jersey family connections can be traced back to the Ice Age or you have recently arrived; we stand on equal and common ground. We hope that by remembering, we can all offer thanksgiving; find strength for today; and look forward to the future with confidence. As John Wesley said, 'Best of all, God is with us'.

So wherever you are watching:

Jersey or sister isles of Guernsey which was also liberated on the 9th May,

Sark liberated on the 10th or

Alderney with their Homecoming on  
December 15th

Welcome All!

We begin by looking at some images from Jersey's Occupation and Liberation and afterwards the Hymn, '*Lord for the Years, Your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way*'.

## Hymn: StF 470 Lord for the Years

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

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

5 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.

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (born 1926) © administered by Oxford University Press Used By Permission. CCL Licence No. 4163*

## Prayers of Thanksgiving lead by Anne Pryke

Let us pray together

Let us thank God this day for the Liberation of Jersey from foreign occupation in the Second World War, and

for the freedom we now enjoy. We remember with gratitude those who, during those hard days, sustained our bodies and spirits by their selfishness and courage, and for those who strove to restore liberty to all the Channel Islands.

As we celebrate, let us not forget all who suffered during the Occupation, praying for any who we knew personally, and especially for those who died before Liberation.

We thank you for the long process of reconciliation that now makes nations allies who were once enemies, and as we celebrate today, we thank you for friendships and trust that we cherish among many countries.

For these great gifts we offer you our living God our thanks and praise.

**Today' Reading is from Philippians 4:4-9  
read by June le Marchand**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.



**Reflection by Rev Tony Morling**

The other day I was loading the weekly shopping in the car when I remembered the words: 'Don't forget the fish fingers'. It was 8.00pm and there was no queue, so as I made my way to the freezer department my eye noticed the cut price Easter egg sale. There were significant reductions and then the manager said, 'If you know some key-workers take some'. Before I knew it he handed me a carrier bag full of mini-eggs which I then distributed to key-workers the next day. They were delighted!

That will be one of my best memories of this time- a store manager reaching out to people he does not know with a generous action of solidarity.

Islanders who experienced the war- both those that were evacuated and those not, often recall similar actions of solidarity. Against the backdrop of curfews, rationing and absence from loved ones, they remember that Red Cross letter, the neighbours sharing a little sugar and of course those brown cardboard boxes that arrived on the Vega- which even contained some chocolate!

The occupation brought suffering and separation: over 300 islanders were taken from Jersey to concentration camps and prisons, and not all returned. But those memories are intermingled with stories of kindness, courage and solidarity.

St Paul, writing to the church at Philippi knew that it is possible to allow the mind to brood on the hurts of the past and allow that corrosive energy to be re-cycled. Instead he seems to say, 'Grab the good, and keep reminding yourself of all that is good, and the Peace of God will be with you'.

'Brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things'.

That could not have been easy for him as he wrote as a chained prisoner, probably awaiting execution. In the toughest of times St Paul when he was most aware of his vulnerability, still counted his blessings- and his freedom in Christ.

The war years were the defining experience of our island in the last century, and while the restrictions of movement and contact we face today bear no comparison to the occupation- we do have an

opportunity to reflect on what is really important and what makes us free.

For some, freedom has required the courage to forge twinning friendships with towns such as Bad Wurzach in Germany so that our future is not limited by the past.

For others, freedom brings a commitment to practical service to others in politics, volunteering, career choice or caring for neighbours through their churches.

For many, there continues to be a ring of truth that in God, in Jesus- we find our ultimate freedom. It begins in receiving a free gift, an act of kindness on the cross, that all may know 'life, and life in all its fullness'. This is the ultimate freedom- an inner peace irrespective of circumstances. St Paul discovered it, as he lingered in that Roman jail. It is also our free gift today.

George Appleton put it like this: *'Freedom in Christ is not freedom to do what I like, but freedom to be what I am meant to be. It is freedom from all the chains which hold me back from being my true self. It is freedom from all imposed limitations and external pressures. It is to share in Christ's freedom to do God's will, and then to help others find a similar freedom'*.

On this poignant Liberation day, can I invite you: Though confined to your home to pause, give thanks, and say, 'I am Free'.

Although we are restricted to use boats or planes to move to others in generous acts of kindness and solidarity to show that we are Free.

Though this awful disease renders havoc across the world- even now, to count our Blessings, and give 'Thanks to God for the Freedom that Christ brings'.

And by the way, I was so distracted by the gift of chocolates I returned home without the fish fingers! Never mind, what I did carry was a memory of unexpected kindness for our key-workers- and for that, I am thankful.

A moment of quiet within which we silently give thanks for all the freedoms we enjoy today.

## **Hymn: StF 78 Give Thanks with a Grateful heart**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart.**

**Give thanks to the Holy One.**

**Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son. (Repeat)**

**And now let the weak say 'I am strong,'**

**Let the poor say 'I am rich,'**

**Because of what the Lord has done for us.**

**(Repeat)**

**(Last time) Give thanks.**

*Henry Smith (born 1952)*

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## **Prayers for Others**

**led by Giles, James and Mary Wankling**

Gracious God

We bring before you those who are currently held captive in our world today;

Those whose land is occupied and who long for liberation. We ask that they may be delivered from evil and know the peace and freedom that you came to bring.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for our world stilled by Covid 19

We thank you for all who continue to serve and provide, Particularly for those who work in hospitals and care homes.

As we yearn for a return to normal, may we seek your wisdom as to what kind of normal we should return to.

Guide all those who govern and hold responsibility for our health and the well-being of the planet.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our Island community,  
For friendship and trust amongst us all,  
A renewed appreciation of our freedoms.

For welcome to those newly arrived  
For a community that is in harmony with itself and for  
a fresh understanding of your call to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**The Lord's Prayer**  
**in both Jèrriais and English**

**Hymn: 51 Great is thy faithfulness**

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,  
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness!*  
*Great is thy faithfulness!*  
*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*  
*all I have needed thy hand hath provided -*  
*great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

- 2 Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

*Great is thy faithfulness!*  
*Great is thy faithfulness!*  
*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*  
*all I have needed thy hand hath provided -*  
*great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Great is thy faithfulness!*  
*Great is thy faithfulness!*  
*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*  
*all I have needed thy hand hath provided -*  
*great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

*Thomas O Chisholm (1866-1960)*  
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**A Prayer of Blessing**

Have a great Liberation Day and may the Blessing of  
od, Father and Holy Spirit be with you and those that  
you love now and forever more.

À bétôt

**Beautiful Jersey**

There's a spot that I love that I ne'er can forget,  
Tho' far I may roam 'twill be dear.  
For its beauty will linger in memory yet,  
Where'er o'er the world I may steer.

Dear Jersey, fair Isle, of the ocean the queen,  
Thy charms are so many and rare;  
For love finds a home 'mid each beauteous scene,  
My heart ever longs to be there.

Beautiful Jersey, gem of the sea,  
Ever my heart turns in longing to thee;  
Bright are the mem'ries you waken for me,  
Beautiful Jersey, gem of the sea.

On thy shores I have wandered in glad days of yore,  
With one who is dear to my heart.  
And the love-links will bind us as one evermore,  
Although for a while we must part.

And oft in my dreams do I see the dear place  
The dear little Isle of the sea,  
And in fancy I gaze on a sweet loving face  
The face that is dearest to me.

Beautiful Jersey, gem of the sea,  
Ever my heart turns in longing to thee;  
Bright are the mem'ries you waken for me,  
Beautiful Jersey, gem of the sea.



**(Lindsay Lennox)**

