



A Reflection for Wednesday in Easter Week 4 Reading - Micah 4:1-4

On Friday 8th May it will be 75 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the war in Europe. How must that have felt to those who had lived through those war years. But not forgetting those still in conflict until 15th August when it was announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War II.

The 75th anniversary provides our nation with an opportunity to reflect on the enormous sacrifice, courage and determination of people from all walks of life who saw us through this dark and terrifying period. Unfortunately due to the current global pandemic the national and local celebrations have had to be changed as we are all staying home. But we can still mark this anniversary. The Royal British Legion is calling on people across the UK to join in a moment of reflection and Remembrance at 11am on Friday and to pause for a Two Minute Silence.

At 3pm on Friday from the safety of our homes we can also undertake the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' by standing up, raising a glass and saying 'To those who gave so much, we thank you.'

It will be an opportunity for us all to remember the enormous sacrifices that were made at home and abroad and to celebrate as people did 75 years ago, the arrival of peace in Europe.

This may feel all the more poignant as we face unprecedented times battling against an invisible foe that has changed our lives. As a nation we have once again discovered our compassion for others and are recognising the contribution of key workers who are enabling the majority to stay home and to keep safe. As we stay home looking towards an uncertain future not everything has changed. The love of God is constant and will not leave us. These wonderful words from the prophet Micah help in times of adversity to believe that God seeks for all to walk in his ways and for peace to reign. For the instruments of destruction to become tools for serving. For the strength to persevere through lockdown. God is there in the midst of us wanting to carry us through.

*1 In days to come
The mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills.
Peoples shall stream to it,
2 and many nations shall come and say:
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
3 He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;
4 but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid;*

Thank you for reading and please keep safe.

The Reverend Nick Devenish

If you are able, join with me at 9.00pm on the Priory Facebook page for Compline from Cartmel Vicarage