



A Moment of Collective Worship.

Theme:	Dame Vera Lynn RIP.
Gathering:	"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."
Hymn / Song / Music:	I Vow To Thee, My Country. 'Songs of Praise' from St. Botolph's Church, Thaxted. https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00lq7bw
Reading:	Jesus Promises The Holy Spirit - John 14:11-30
Something To Reflect On:	<p>Today we remember Dame Vera Lynn who died yesterday, (18th. June 2020.) She was born in 1917 and aged 103 years old when she died. Dame Vera was known as 'The Forces' Sweetheart,' because she was a singer and sang songs during World War 2 to the British troops who were away fighting in Europe and countries including India, Burma and Egypt. She also broadcast uplifting programmes on the BBC to the armed forces, sharing messages of comfort and support. Her songs were listened to by them and also by millions of people back home. They were powerful optimistic songs with words of hope and helped both people who were apart from loved ones and also the whole country get through the dark times of the war, looking forward to the time when better times would return. She also spent time meeting "the boys," as she called them, reassuring them that things were ok back home. She said that the best way she knew to help in the war was to go on singing. Whenever people who were alive in the time of the war hear her voice, memories are evoked of what they lived through and of loved ones. Her distinctive nostalgic sound has spanned decades, entrancing and touching the lives of millions and transcended generations, meaning that also younger people have grown to realise the importance of her songs. Her most famous song is probably 'We'll Meet Again,' but she is also well known for many other wartime anthems like 'A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square,' 'There'll Be Bluebirds Over The White Cliffs of Dover' and her favourite song, 'It's a Lovely Day Tomorrow.'</p> <p>After the war, Dame Vera made more programmes for "the boys" and continued singing, bringing back so many memories for people. She became a supporter for British veterans and was never happier than when she was with "my boys," "I did bring messages of love and hope, just brought the parted ones that little bit nearer together," said Dame Vera.</p> <p>Dame Vera's songs have seen through and uplifted the country in some of its darkest hours. The words and spirit of the songs that Dame Vera sang chime with the Christian message of strength through difficult times and hope to better times. This is echoed in our bible reading in which Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to be with each of us.</p> <p>Many people feel that the Coronavirus pandemic that our country and indeed the world is going through has similarities with the war time. We have had dark times when many people have lost their life or have loved ones who have died; people have been separated from others due to social isolation and distancing and the wartime spirit has been seen today in so many examples of people and communities helping and looking after each other. With Dame Vera Lynn being the embodiment of war time spirit, Her Majesty the Queen echoed Dame Vera's words at the end of her recent speech to the nation when she looked to happier times once the Coronavirus outbreak has passed, "<i>We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again.</i>"</p> <p>This video from 'VE Day 75 The People's Celebration' of Dame Vera's song 'We'll Meet Again' begins and ends by showing Dame Vera singing along with Katherine Jenkins and many people today living through the Coronavirus pandemic, showing how relevant the song is for all of us in 2020, helping bring hope through these difficult times. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKSc8BLXAj8 (Please see overleaf for an accompanying picture that can be displayed during this Collective Worship.)</p>
A Question To Think About:	"We should always remember, we should never forget and we should teach the children to remember." - What do you think Dame Vera Lynn meant by these words?
Prayers:	The Lord's Prayer.
Closing Prayer:	Reflect and pray on the words of "I'll Pray For You" by Dame Vera Lynn. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezUZEWVsluo
Sending Out:	"God of hope, strengthen our hope; God of love, kindle our love so that, in a fragile world, we may be signs of the faith, hope, love which we share in Jesus Christ. Amen."



Dame Vera Lynn

1917 - 2020

