

EMPIRE YOUTH SUNDAY



A DEDICATION SERVICE

Empire Youth Sunday is a Family Sunday.

On this day the youth of the Empire unite in seeking the Divine blessing upon the British Family of Nations.

We pray for the members of the Royal Family, for the Empire and her youth and for God's blessing upon every home.

21st MAY, 1950
AT 3 P.M.



An Order of Service for Empire Youth Sunday

21st May, 1950, at 3 p.m.

ENTRY OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

and

RECEPTION OF COLOURS, FLAGS

AND BANNERS



HYMN

"O God Our Help"

Isaac Watts

(Tune: St. Ann)

O GOD our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home;

Beneath the shadow of Thy Throne
Thy Saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine Arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home. Amen.

PROLOGUE

WE are taking part in a service far wider than we can see with our eyes. In towns and cities throughout the Empire, all over the world, young people are gathering as we are, to thank God for His blessings in the past, and to dedicate themselves to His Service through citizenship in the British Empire. The King and Queen have not yet been able to visit Australia, but we look forward to the time when they will be free to come, and we thankfully remember that Their Majesties, though separated by distance, are yet united with us, their subjects, in these Empire Youth Services.

Let us therefore pray most earnestly, sing most heartily, listen most attentively, to the message that will be given, so that we may go from this service determined in our hearts that with God's help, we shall live valiantly, act loyally and share unselfishly the duties as well as the privileges of the great Empire to which we all belong.

HYMN

"Fight the Good Fight"

J. S. B. Monsell

(Tune: Pentecost)

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the Faith."

—St. Paul from prison to his young friend Timothy.

FIGHT the good fight with all thy might,
Christ is thy Strength, and Christ thy Right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thine eyes, and seek His face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the path, and Christ the Prize.

Cast care aside, lean on thy Guide;
His boundless mercy will provide;
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near,
He changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee. Amen.



THE LESSON

(Alternative verses may be read, if desired, by the congregation)

The king shall rejoice in thy strength, O Lord; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!

Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips.

For thou presentest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of fine gold on his head.

He asked life of thee, thou gavest it him; even length of days for ever and ever.

For the king trusteth in the Lord, and through the loving kindness of the Most High he shall not be moved.

(PSALM 21; vv. 1-4, 7.)

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

The Lord looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men;

From the place of his habitation he looketh forth upon all the inhabitants of the earth;

He that fashioneth the hearts of them all, that considereth all their works.

There is no king saved by the multitude of an host; a mighty man is not delivered by much strength.

Our soul hath waited for the Lord: he is our help and our shield.

For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in thee.

(PSALM 33; vv. 12-16, 20-22.)

Be subject to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake; whether it be to the kings, as supreme;

Or unto governors, as sent by him for vengeance on evil-doers and for praise of them that do well.

For so is the will of God, that by well-doing ye should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men;

As free, and not using your freedom for a cloke of wickedness, but as bondservants of God.

Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

(1 PETER 2: vv. 13-17.)

HYMN

"Pledge to Our Country"

(Tune: Hursley)

Kipling

LAND of our Birth, we pledge to Thee
Our Love and toil in the years to be;
When we are grown and take our place,
As men and women with our race.

Father in heaven, Who lovest all,
O help Thy children when they call;
That they may build from age to age,
An undefiled heritage.

Teach us to bear the yoke in youth,
With steadfastness and careful truth;
That, in our time, Thy grace may give
The truth whereby the nations live.

Teach us to rule ourselves always,
Controlled and cleanly night and day;
That we may bring, if need arise,
No maimed or worthless sacrifice.

Teach us to look in all our ends,
On Thee for Judge, and not our friends;
That we, with Thee, may walk uncowed
By fear or favour of the crowd.

Teach us the strength that cannot seek,
By deed or thought, to hurt the weak
That, under Thee, we may possess
Man's strength to succour man's distress

Teach us delight in simple things,
And mirth that has no bitter springs
Forgiveness free of evil done,
And love to all men 'neath the sun.

Land of our Birth, our faith, our pride,
For whose dear sake our fathers died;
O Motherland, we pledge to thee,
Head, heart, and hand through the years to be!



THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Then all shall say—

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



Let us pray

Then all shall say—

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which are in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; In earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that 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.

PRAYERS

LET US PRAY FOR THE KING AND THOSE SET IN AUTHORITY OVER US—

BLESS, we beseech Thee, merciful Lord, our Empire and all its dominions and dependencies. Give Thine abundant grace to our Sovereign Lord, King George, to our gracious Queen Elizabeth, Mary the Queen Mother, the Princess Elizabeth, the Princess Margaret, Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, and to all who bear office throughout the realm, especially the Governor-General of the Commonwealth and the Governor of this State, that in all things we may be governed righteously and in Thy fear; and grant unto us, not only such outward prosperity as is according to Thy will, but, above all things, such virtue and true religion that Thy holy Name may be ever glorified in the midst of us.

Then all shall say—*Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

LET US PRAY FOR THE BRITISH EMPIRE—

ALmighty GOD, Who rulest in the kingdom of men, and hast given to our Sovereign Lord, King George, a great dominion in all parts of the earth: draw together, we pray Thee, in true fellowship, the men of divers races, languages, thoughts and customs, who dwell therein, that, bearing one another's burdens, and working together in brotherly concord, they may fulfil the purpose of Thy providence, and set forward Thy everlasting kingdom. Pardon, we beseech Thee, our sins and shortcomings: keep far from us all selfishness and pride; and give us grace to employ Thy good gifts of order and freedom to Thy Glory and the welfare of mankind. Then all shall say—*Through Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord, to Whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost be all glory and dominion, world without end. Amen.*

LET US PRAY FOR A NEW WORLD—

OGOD, the Lord of kings and kingdoms: let Thy strong hand control the nations, and cause them to long for Thy love to rule on the earth. Strengthen, we pray Thee, all who are striving after true brotherhood and who are working for righteousness and peace. Guide the hearts and minds of rulers and statesmen, that they may seek first Thy Kingdom and the establishing of justice and freedom of all peoples; both great and small.

Then all shall say—*We ask this for the sake of Christ, our Leader. Amen.*



HYMN

“The Standard of Youth”

(Tune: Aurelia)

UNFURL the Empire's standard and sing aloud to-day,
One great glad song of triumph that echoes far away,
“For God, for King, for Country,” we pledge ourselves to be
True servants of our Empire, in strength and unity.

As citizens and patriots, let all in concord stand,
Uphold by noble living the honour of their land;
“For God, for King, for Country,” thus prove themselves to be
True servants of our Empire, in faith and charity.

To think, to bear, to labour, to welcome duty's call,
May each by self-surrender learn fellowship with all.
“For God, for King, for Country,” strive ever so to be
True servants of our Empire, in love and sympathy.

The Empire's Red Cross Standard unfurled aloft to-day,
Bids every loyal subject to work, to watch, to pray
“For God, for King, for Country,” that future ages see
The servants of our Empire, heirs to Eternity.

THE ADDRESS

Roll of Drums or Fanfare of Trumpets

NATIONAL ANTHEM

(1st verse)



THE ROYAL MESSAGE

THE RESPONSE

Verses written by Alfred Noyes for the first Empire Youth Rally in London, 1937, and sung to the tune of the National Anthem.

LORD GOD in age and youth,
Help us to serve the truth,
Truth that lives on
Ageless where realms go by,
Deathless while kingdoms die,
Strong in Thy strength on high,
Till time be done.

Let Thine unchanging word
Rule all our nations, Lord,
Round the seas ring.
Deep in all hearts to-night
Throne Thy strong law of right,
Lord of all power and might,
Save Thou our King.



HYMN

“Our Blessed Heritage”

F. L. Hosmer

(Tune: Ewing)

O BEAUTIFUL, our country!
Be thine a nobler care
Than all thy wealth of commerce,
Thy harvests waving fair:
Be it thy pride to cherish
The manhood of the poor;
Be thou to the oppressed
Fair freedom's open door!

For thee our fathers suffered,
For thee they toiled and prayed;
Upon thy holy altar
Their willing lives they laid.
Thou hast no common birthright,
Grand memories on thee shine;
The blood of noble races
Co-mingled flows in thine.

O beautiful, our country!
Round thee in love we draw;

Thine is the grace of freedom,
The majesty of law.
Be righteousness thy sceptre,
Justice thy diadem;
And on thy shining forehead
Be peace thy crowning gem.

DEDICATION

LET US PRAY—

God, our Father, we give Thee thanks for the inheritance which Thou hast entrusted to us, for the vocation wherewith Thou dost call us, and for the tasks of life which lie before us.

Then all shall say—*For the strength of youth and the years of hope and promise; for those who have taught and helped us on our way, we thank Thee, O God.*

Almighty God, we pray that Thou wilt guide and sustain us with vision and courage, endurance and fidelity. May Thy law be the lantern of our paths and keep us in consecration and integrity.

Then all shall say—*May the truth of Christ light our hearts and minds.*

RETURN OF COLOURS, FLAGS AND BANNERS

Accept, O God, the lives which we here dedicate; and bestow upon us Thy gifts for service, that the men and women of our generation may be united in Thy faith and fear, in the cause of Justice and Liberty and Peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render no man evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour the King and all men; love and serve the Lord.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.



SUPPLEMENTARY HYMNS

The Pilgrim's Song

John Bunyan

(Tune: Monks' Gate)

WHO would true valour see,
Let him come hither;
One here will constant be,
Come wind, come weather;
There's no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round
With dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound;
His strength the more is.

No lion can him fright,
He'll with a giant fight,
But he will have a right
To be a pilgrim.

Hobgoblin nor foul fiend
Can daunt his spirit;
He knows he at the end
Shall life inherit.

Then fancies fly away;
He'll fear not what men say;
He'll labour night and day
To be a pilgrim.

"Pledge to our Country"

Cecil Spring-Rice

(Tune: Thaxted)

IVOW to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;
The love that asks no question, the love that stands
the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them
that know;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her
King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds
increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths
are peace.



EMPIRE YOUTH COUNCIL

The aim of The Council is that all young people may be actively linked with the Movement through one or more of its member organizations which include the Christian churches, the Jewish community, the University, Schools, Youth organizations, the Services, and Patriotic Societies.

Information about the Empire Youth Movement may be obtained from the Headquarters of the above organizations or directly from the Honorary Secretary, Empire Youth Council, National Fitness Office, 53 Russell Street, Melbourne.