



## **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE**

# **Wholeness and Healing**

**14<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

*The all-important aim in Christian healing is to allow God's mysterious and silent presence within us to become more and more not only a reality, but the reality in our lives which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do, to everything we are.*

## **Welcome and Introduction**

We worship together in the name of God

**Who knows each of us by name**

We worship together in the name of Christ

**Whose touch brought healing for forgotten people**

We worship together in the name of the Holy Spirit

**Who has promised to stay with us, to sustain and restore us.**

### **Prayers of Penitence:**

Jesus said, *'Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.'*

Let us accept His invitation as we turn to him in prayer:

You know us, Lord, we do not have to pretend with you.

In the silence of your love, we bring you all the things that trouble us,  
that harm us, that make us feel ashamed or afraid.

*Silence*

Lord, have mercy on us    **Christ, have mercy on us**    Lord, have mercy on us

God of compassion, you know us inside out, yet you love us; you know the worst in us and the best in us. May your deep love drown all our failings, may your tears wash away our sin; may your living water well up in us and renew our spirit. As we are forgiven so may we forgive others and reach out to be reconciled in your love. In the power of your Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus. **Amen**

## **Liturgy of the Word**

### **A Reading from Psalm 34 : 11-20**

Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.  
Which of you desires life, and covets many days to enjoy good?  
Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.  
Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.  
The face of the LORD is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them  
from the earth.

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears, and rescues them from  
all their troubles.

The LORD is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD rescues them from them all.  
He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken.

**For the word of the Lord - Thanks be to God.**

### **Hymn**

(tune: Buessan)

Fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers,  
all those who love us, for whom we care:  
help and befriend them, keep and defend them,  
Jesus our Saviour, this is our prayer.

And for those others, fathers and mothers,  
children who hunger, they must be fed:  
we would be caring, readily sharing,  
one with another our daily bread.

Sisters and brothers, fathers and mothers,  
we who together offer our praise:  
hear our thanksgiving, God ever living,  
may we walk with you all of our days.

(Timothy Dudley-Smith)

### **A reading from the Gospel of Luke 2 : 33-35**

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

**For the word of the Lord – Thanks be to God**

## **Litany of Healing**

*Giving thanks for any healing we or others have received strengthens everyone's faith and hope:*

Loving God, we give you thanks for health restored and prayers answered.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*And now we turn to God in prayer for all those ongoing situations:*

God of compassion and love, we offer you all our suffering and pain. Give us strength to bear our weakness; healing even when there is no cure; peace in the midst of turmoil and love to fill the spaces in our lives.

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those who suffer pain and ill-health, with their families, friends and those who care for them:

**May they know the deep peace of Christ**

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those who suffer in mind and spirit and all those who care for them:

**May they know the deep peace of Christ**

Loving God, we hold in your presence the suffering people of the world and the <sup>places</sup> where people are experiencing division, injustice and violence:

**May they know the deep peace of Christ**

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those struggling to overcome abuse or addiction, those supporting and working with them, and all whose suffering has distanced them from those they love:

**May they know the deep peace of Christ**

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those facing bereavement and we also pray for those who have died:

**May they know the deep peace of Christ**

*We pray for all those known to us who have asked for our prayers:*

**Lord, you know the needs of each one of us, our strengths and our weaknesses, our hopes and disappointments. We commend to your loving care all those we now name in our hearts and who have asked for our prayers. Guard them as the apple of your eye, hide them under the shadow of your wings. Show them your merciful love, in health or in sickness, in life or in death. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen**

### **Hymn**

(Eriskay Love Lilt)

Lord of life, we come to you;  
Lord of all, our Saviour be;  
come to bless and to heal  
with the light of your love.

Through the days of doubt and toil,  
in our joy and in our pain,  
guide our steps in your way,  
make us one in your love.

(Catherine Walker b.1958)

# The Thanksgiving

Spirit of God, who dwells within people and places, help us to magnify your kindness and goodness to overcome ignorance, alienation and hostility, to be able to see each other as people created and connected in God's image. Humble us by your power that we might have the courage to come together, physically distanced but united in purpose, called by name to serve God and our neighbours. Pour your gifts upon us, so that we can fulfil your trust in us to do our part that your kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven. **Amen**

## Hymn (melody harmonised by Ralph Vaughan Williams)

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
    'Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
    thy head upon my breast':  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
    weary and worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting place,  
    and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
    'Behold I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down and drink and live':  
I came to Jesus and I drank  
    of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched my soul revived,  
    and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
‘I am this dark world’s light;  
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
and all the day be bright’:  
I looked to Jesus and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and I that light of life I’ll walk  
till travelling days are done.

(Horatio N. Bonar 1808-1889)

## The Blessing

May the blessing of God surround us  
May angels and friends share our journey  
May we be wise and strong and creative  
May we celebrate life and hope  
May God’s image grow within us, gently, powerfully, tenderly  
May we be cradled in warmth and healing  
May we be held in God’s wisdom and love  
May the gospel of life sustain us all the days of our journey home.

Let us go out into the world in the joy and peace of Christ.      **Thanks be to God**