



# The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross Pershore

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## Wholeness and Healing Service

*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, everything we are.*

### Welcome and Introduction

We come in this Service to God

**In our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.**

We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus

**And you know by experience what human life is like.**

We come with our faith and with our doubts;

**We come with our hopes and with our fears.**

We come as we are, because you invite us to come

**And you have promised never to turn us away**

### Hymn

Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

Jesus, good above all other,  
gentle child of gentle mother,  
in a stable born our brother,  
give us grace to persevere.

*Cont.*

Jesus, cradled in a manger,  
for us facing every danger,  
living as a homeless stranger,  
make we thee our King most dear.

Jesus, for thy people dying,  
risen Master, death defying,  
Lord in heaven, thy grace supplying  
keep us to thy presence near.

Jesus, who our sorrows bearest,  
all our thoughts and hopes thou sharest,  
thou to us the truth declarest;  
help us all thy truth to hear.

Lord in all our doings guide us;  
pride and hate shall ne'er divide us;  
we'll go on with thee beside us,  
and with joy we'll persevere.

(German carol melody  
adapted Ralph Vaughan Williams)

### **Prayer of Penitence:**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: 'Anyone who comes to me I will never turn away.'  
In the presence of God, let us confess our sins.

*Silence*

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to God and to one another,  
Lord have mercy      **Lord have mercy**  
Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division,  
Christ have mercy      **Christ have mercy**  
Lord Jesus, you offer us a new beginning,  
Lord have mercy      **Lord have mercy**

*Silence*

God is love, through Jesus our sins are forgiven. Let us live in the power of the Spirit.  
**Amen**

## **Collect**

Heavenly Father, you anointed your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit and with power to bring to us all the blessings of your Kingdom. Anoint your Church with the same Holy Spirit, that we who share in his suffering and victory may bear witness to the gospel of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen**

*Sit for:*

# **Readings from Scripture**

## **First Reading from Baruch 5 : 1-4**

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **Second Reading – Matthew 11 : 7-16**

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **Hymn**

(Graham Kendrick b.1950)

Make way, make way, for Christ the King  
in splendour arrives;  
fling wide the gates and welcome him  
into your lives.

*Refrain:*

Make way, *make way*, make way, *make way*,  
for the King of kings, *for the King of kings*.  
Make way, *make way*, make way, *make way*,  
and let his kingdom in.

He comes the broken hearts to heal,  
the pris'ners to free.  
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,  
the blind shall see.

*Cont.*

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,  
who weep and sigh,  
with laughter, joy and royal crown  
He'll beautify.

We call you now to worship him  
as Lord of all,  
to have no gods before him,  
their thrones must fall.

## **Reflection/Meditation Litany of Healing**

*To strengthen our faith and hope we now share any experiences when earlier prayers have been answered or offer our own prayers of thanksgiving in silence.....*

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 places 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. We also pray for those who have died:

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

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence and peace those for whom we have been asked to pray privately: Lord, you know the needs of each one of them, their strengths and their weaknesses, their hopes and disappointments. 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.

God of love

**Hear our prayers, Amen.**

## **We invite everyone to come forward for healing prayer**

*After we have returned to our seats we sing:*

### **Hymn**

(Jacques Berthier 1923-1994)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart!

*(Repeat three more times)*

### **Prayer:**

**The Almighty God, who is a strong tower for all who put their trust in him, whom all things in heaven and earth and under the earth obey, be now and evermore our defence. May we believe and trust that the only name under heaven given for health and salvation is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen**

# Thanksgiving

**For loving the world and knowing our names, thank you, God  
For your strength that fills us and your love that heals us, thank you, God  
For your presence here with us now and for your hand  
that leads us into tomorrow, thank you, God  
Come bless us, hold us, wrestle with us, warm us in your embrace,  
for we are your people and you are our justice and joy. Amen**

## Hymn

(Charles Coffin 1676-1749)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
make straight the way for God within;  
prepare we in our hearts a home,  
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without thy grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thy hand  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
whose advent doth thy people free,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

(Winchester New LM)

# 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 into the world in the joy and peace of Christ.      Thanks be to God.

Our next service is on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 5pm