



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PERSHORE

Wholeness and Healing

13th September 2020

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 103 : 1-13

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger for ever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

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

Hymn

(tune: John Goss 1800-1880)

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven!
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
praise the everlasting King!

2. Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.
Praise him, praise him.
praise him, praise him,
glorious in his faithfulness!

3. Father like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
widely as his mercy flows!

4. Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him, praise him,
praise him praise him,
praise with us the God of grace!

(Henry Francis Lyte 1793-1847)

A reading from the Gospel of John 3:13-17

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

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 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 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

(Jacques Berthier 1923-1994)

Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.

(repeat 3 more times)

The Thanksgiving

God of all goodness, we thank you for helping us so far through this crisis,
for holding us through tears and sorrow, for lifting us when we were down.

God of all wisdom, we thank you for all that we are learning and discovering,
about ourselves, our neighbours, our communities through these uncertain times.

God of all creation, we thank you for the fertility of the natural world,
for the possibility of new growth and new life, and we pray that you will help us to
live in a way that is sustainable and respects the life of every individual. Amen

Hymn

(Thomas Obadiah Chilsholm)

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

(William Marion Runyan)

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.