



# THE ABBEY CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS PERSHORE

SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021

## Wholeness and Healing

*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

## Hymn

(tune: Michael)

1. All my hope on God is founded;  
he doth still my trust renew.  
me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown, he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.

2. Human pride and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray his trust;  
what with care and toil he buildeth,  
tower and temple, fall to dust.  
but God's power, hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.

3. God's great goodness aye endureth,  
deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
splendour, light and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of nought.  
evermore, from his store,  
new-born worlds rise and adore.

4. Still from earth to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ his Son.  
Christ doth call one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.

(Herbert Howells 1892-1983)

# Liturgy of the Word

## A Reading from Psalm 49 : 1-11, 15-19

Why should I fear in times of trouble,  
when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me,  
those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?  
Truly, no ransom avails for one's life, there is no price one can give to God for it.  
For the ransom of life is costly, and can never suffice,  
that one should live on for ever and never see the grave.  
When we look at the wise, they die; fool and dolt perish together  
and leave their wealth to others.

Their graves are their homes for ever, their dwelling-places to all generations,  
though they named lands their own.

Mortals cannot abide in their pomp; they are like the animals that perish.

Do not be afraid when some become rich, when the wealth of their houses increases.  
For when they die they will carry nothing away;  
their wealth will not go down after them.

Though in their lifetime they count themselves happy

—for you are praised when you do well for yourself—

they will go to the company of their ancestors, who will never again see the light.

But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me.

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

### **A Reading from Hebrews 13 : 5-8**

Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?'

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.

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

### **Hymn**

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord with me abide:  
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour:  
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;  
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

## **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**

Almighty and most merciful God, Father of all creation, we offer up our prayers to you at this time of uncertainty and we ask that your will be done here on earth. We give you thanks in the sure and certain hope that you will never leave us or forsake us. We lift to you all who are weary, all who are hungry, all who are oppressed, all who are excluded, all who are suffering in mind, body or spirit – may your love surround and protect them and may they know your peace. 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

(Tune: Blessed Assurance)

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine:  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;  
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

(Phoebe Palmer Knapp 1839-1908)

# The Blessing

God of compassion, we bring to you our grieving:  
bless us with your healing love.

God of wisdom, we bring to you our learning:  
bless us with the energy of change.

God of new beginnings, we bring to you our future;  
bless us with your vision of eternal life.

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with us now and forever.

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