



THE ABBEY CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS PERSHORE

SUNDAY 11th JULY 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

(Arr. J Bell & G Moule)

We cannot measure how you heal or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross, survive to hold and heal and warm;
to carry all through death to life and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away, the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside, the memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need your help and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain and make your broken people whole.

(Trad. Scottish Melody)

Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from Deuteronomy 28 : 1-8

If you will only obey the Lord your God, by diligently observing all his commandments that I am commanding you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth; all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the Lord your God.

Blessed shall you be in the city and blessed shall you be in the field.

Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb, the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your livestock, both the increase of your cattle and the issue of your flock.

Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

Blessed shall you be when you come in and blessed shall you be when you go out.

The Lord will cause your enemies, who rise against you, to be defeated before you; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seen ways. The Lord will command the blessing upon you in all that you undertake and in the land that the Lord your God is giving to you.

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

A reading from 2 Peter 3 : 8-15

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

(Graham Kendrick)

1. Beauty for brokenness,
hope for despair,
Lord, in the suffering
this is our prayer.
Bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset
your kingdom increase.

2. Shelter for fragile lives,
cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen,
trade for their skills.
Land for the dispossessed,
rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause
of those who can't speak.
Refrain

*Refrain: God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray,
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain,
come change our love from a spark to a flame.*

3. Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned,
our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
carelessness, greed;
make us content with
the things that we need.
Refrain

4. Lighten our darkness,
breathe on this flame,
until your justice
burns brightly again;
until the nations
learn of your ways,
seek your salvation
and bring you their praise.
Refrain

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 the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation

We praise and bless you, Lord

God the Son, you came that we might have life and might have it more abundantly

We praise and bless you, Lord

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence

We praise and bless you Lord

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being

We praise and bless you Lord

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured or disabled, that they may be made whole.

Hear us, Lord of life

Grant to all who are lonely, anxious or depressed, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence

Hear us, Lord of life

Grant to all who minister to the suffering wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience

Hear us, Lord of life

Mend broken relationships and restore to those in distress soundness of mind and serenity of spirit

Hear us, Lord of life

Sustain and support those who seek your guidance and lift up all who are brought low by the trials of life

Hear us, Lord of life

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved

Hear us, Lord of life

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation and in the world

Hear us, Lord of life

Lord, we hold in your healing presence 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

You are the Lord who does mighty wonders
You have declared your power among the peoples
With you Lord, is the well of life
And in your light do we see light
Hear us, Lord of life
Heal us and make us whole.

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 have learned and discovered,
about ourselves, our neighbours, our communities through 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

(Henry Smith)

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
And now let the weak say, 'I am strong',
let the poor say, 'I a rich,' because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say, 'I am strong',
let the poor say, 'I am rich,' because of what the Lord has done for us,
give thanks.

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.**

Common Worship: Pastoral Services, materials from which are included in this service is copyright © The Archbishop's Council 2000.
Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New, Common Ground and Worship Songs. Pershore Abbey Copyright Licence No. 46441