



# The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross Pershore

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## 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

(Lydia – Charles Wesley)

1. Jesus the name high over all  
in hell, or earth, or sky,  
angels and mortals prostrate fall  
and devils fear and fly,  
and devils fear and fly.

2. Jesus the name to sinners dear,  
the name to sinners given;  
it scatters all their guilty fear,  
it turns their hell to heaven.

3. O, that the world might taste and see  
the riches of his grace!  
The arms of love that compass me,  
hold all the human race.

4. His only righteousness I show,  
his saving grace proclaim:  
'tis all my business here below  
to cry, 'Behold the Lamb!'

(Thomas Phillips 1735-1807)

## **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 – Psalm 146**

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith for ever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.  
The LORD watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

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

## **Second Reading - James 5.13-16**

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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

## **Hymn**

(New every morning - Melcombe)

We give God thanks for those who knew  
the touch of Jesus' healing love;  
they trusted him to make them whole,  
to give them peace, their guilt remove.

We offer prayer for all who go  
relying on God's grace and power,  
to help the anxious and the ill,  
to heal their wounds, their lives restore.

We dedicate our skills and time  
to those who suffer where we live,  
to bring such comfort as we can  
to meet their need, their pain relieve.

So Jesus' touch of healing grace  
lives on within our willing care;  
by thought and prayer and gifts we prove  
his mercy still, his love we share.

(Samuel Webb 1740-1816)

## Reflection

### 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 – beginning today with a prayer for the peoples of Ukraine and the Holy Land*

'Lord of all the earth be present with all people at this time of danger, fear and conflict. Grant that wise and peaceable counsels may prevail and give to them and all nations who are suffering the freedom they desire and deserve. Amen'

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 healing 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 and whose prayers have been placed on the altar during this service:

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 those for whom we have been asked to pray. 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 now invite everyone to come forward for healing prayer and to receive a tealight.**

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

**Hymn**

(Dougie Brown)

River, wash over me  
cleanse me and make me new  
bathe me, refresh me and fill me anew  
river wash over me

Spirit, watch over me  
lead me to Jesus' feet  
cause me to worship and fill me anew  
Spirit, watch over me

Jesus, rule over me  
reign over all my heart  
teach me to praise you and fill me anew  
Jesus, rule over me

*We say together:*

**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

*Together:*

**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

(Blaenwern – Charles Wesley)

Jesus in your life we see you  
making God's compassion known,  
surely you have borne our sorrows,  
surely made our pain your own!  
See your touch bring hope and healing,  
see your word set captives free,  
see you suffer, mocked, rejected,  
dying on the shameful tree.

Risen Lord, you reign in glory;  
but your wounded hands still show  
you can share the outcasts' torment,  
sound the depth of human woe;  
know where greed exploits the helpless,  
hear the addict's lonely cry,  
grieve at so much waste and heartbreak,  
feel for all who question, 'Why?'

Risen Lord, you bear their sorrow  
know how much they need your peace;  
as you once healed broken bodies,  
offered captive souls release,  
take us, use us in your service,  
we would follow where you lead;  
only your divine compassion  
meets the depth of human need.

(J Bell & G Maule)

# 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 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 5pm  
in Pershore Abbey*