



The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross Pershore

Sunday 10th July 2022

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

(Fred Kaan b.1929)

1. For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that life affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

2. Lead us, Father, into freedom,
from despair your world release;
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

3. All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race or schooling
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

4. You, creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

(Essay on Church Plain Chant 1782)

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 82 :2-5+8

'How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked?

Give justice to the weak and the orphan;
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.'

They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk around in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken. Rise up, O God, judge the earth;
for all the nations belong to you!

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Second Reading – Mark 7 : 1+2,5,9-15

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?’

Then he said to them, ‘You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition! For Moses said, “Honour your father and your mother”; and, “Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.” But you say that if anyone tells father or mother, “Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban” (that is, an offering to God)— then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother, thus making void the word of God through your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many things like this.’

Then Jesus called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.’

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

Hymn

(Fred Kaan b.1929)

1. God, the source and goal of being,
in whose love we trust our lives,
help us seek, and so discover,
pathways new which faith provides;
give us knowledge, give us insight
and fresh visions of your light.

2. God, whose touch brings hope to people
who are lost without your love,
hear the prayers and praise we offer
from our dark to light above;
teach us how to share your glory
that your presence all may see.

3. God of love, of power and action,
from our bondage set us free;
take our lives and in them fashion
what you destine each shall be;
live in us who stand before you
and through us your world renew.

4. God the Father, God the Saviour,
God the Holy Spirit – One;
while we sing your praise to heaven
may on earth your will be done;
let the world accept our offering
of your song of love we bring.

(Edward Elgar 1857-1934 ‘Drakes Broughton’)

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 – beginning today with the prayer by the Dean of Worcester for the people of Ukraine:

‘Lord of all the earth be present with the people of Ukraine at this time of danger, fear and conflict. Grant that wise and peaceable counsels may yet 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 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 invite everyone to come forward for healing prayer

After we have returned to our seats we sing:

Hymn

(Jacques Berthier 1923-1994)

Sing praise and bless the Lord,
sing praise and bless the Lord,
peoples, nations, alleluia!
Sing praise and bless the Lord,
sing praise and bless the Lord,
peoples, nations, alleluia!

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

(Bryn A Rees 1911-1983)

1. The kingdom of God
is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores
what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory
in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter
the kingdom shall grow.

2. The kingdom of God
is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed,
the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed
God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened
in place of despair.

3. The kingdom of God
is challenge and choice,
believe the good news,
repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners
brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement
for gain or for loss.

4. God's kingdom is come
the gift and the goal.
in Jesus begun,
in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom
shall answer his call,
and all things cry 'Glory!'
to God all in all.

(Gerald L Barnes b.1955)

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 14th August 2022 at 5pm

