



# The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross Pershore

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 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

(John Raphael Peacey 1896-1971)

1. For Mary, mother of our Lord,  
God's holy name be praised,  
who first the Son of God adored  
as on her child she gazed.

2. The angel Gabriel brought the word  
she should Christ's mother be;  
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,  
made answer willingly.

5. Dear Mary, from your lowliness  
and home in Galilee,  
there comes a joy and holiness  
to ev'ry family.

3. The heav'nly call she thus obeyed,  
and so God's will was done;  
the second Eve love's answer made  
which our redemption won.

4. She gave her body for God's shrine,  
her heart to piercing pain,  
and knew the cost of love divine  
when Jesus Christ was slain.

6. Hail Mary, you are full of grace,  
above all women blest;  
and blest your son, whom your embrace  
in birth and death confessed.

(Gordon Slater 1896-1979)

### **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 – Isaiah 7:10-15**

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; Let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign – Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.'

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Second Reading – Luke 11:27+28**

While Jesus was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!' But he said, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.'

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Hymn

(Michael Forster b.1946)

1. Mary, blessed grieving mother,  
waiting by the cross of shame,  
through your patient, prayerful vigil  
kindle hope's eternal flame;  
crying in the pains of earth,  
singing of redemption's birth.

3. Standing with the suffering Saviour,  
still oppressed by hate and fear,  
where the gentle still are murdered  
and protesters disappear:  
mother of the crucified,  
call his people to your side!

2. Where the crosses of the nations  
darken still the noon-day skies,  
see the sad Madonna weeping  
through a million mothers' eyes.  
Holy Mary, full of grace,  
all our tears with yours embrace.

4. Holy mother, watching, waiting,  
for the saving of the earth;  
in the loneliness of dying,  
speak of hope and human worth,  
there for all the world to see,  
lifted up at Calvary!

(Alan Ridout 1934-1996)

## 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**                      (unknown)

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
holy is the Lord God almighty.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
holy is he Lord God almighty:  
who was, and is, and is to come;  
holy, holy, holy is the Lord.

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,  
Jesus is the Lord God almighty.  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,  
Jesus is the Lord God almighty:  
who was, and is, and is to come;  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord.

(arr. Colin Hand)

**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**

(HenrySmith)

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 am 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.  
(repeat)

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 into the world in the joy and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

*Our next service is on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 5pm*

