



# The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross Pershore

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October 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

(Arr. Andrew Moore)

All over the world the Spirit is moving,  
all over the world, as the prophets said it would be.  
All over the world there's a mighty revelation  
of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

All over the Church the Spirit is moving,  
all over the world, as the prophets said it would be.  
All over the world there's a mighty revelation  
of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

All over us all the Spirit is moving,  
all over the world, as the prophets said it would be.  
All over the world there's a mighty revelation  
of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

(Roy Turner b.1940)

## **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 – Joel 2:22-26**

Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God;

For he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.

The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten,

The hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Second Reading – Romans 8:18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

### Hymn

(East Aclam - Francis Jackson b.1917)

For the fruits of his creation, thanks be to God;  
for his gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;  
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done;  
in the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done;  
in our world-wide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvest we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of his Spirit, thanks be to God;  
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;  
for the wonders that astound us  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

(Fred Pratt Green)

## 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 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)

Calm me, Lord, as you calmed the storm;  
Still me, Lord, keep me from harm.  
Let all the tumults within me cease;  
Enfold me, Lord, in your peace.

(Repeat 3 more times - last time....Lord, enfold me in your peace)

*Say together - 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**

*Say 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  
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**

(Duke Street – John Hatton)

Fight the good fight with all thy might;  
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;  
lay hold on life and it shall be  
thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace,  
lift up thine eyes and seek his face;  
life with its way before us lies;  
Christ is the path and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on thy guide;  
His boundless mercy will provide;  
trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove  
Christ is its life and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear, his arms are near;  
He changeth not and thou art dear;  
only believe and thou shalt see  
that Christ is all in all to thee.

(John Samuel Bewley Monsell 1811-1875)

## **The Blessing**

May the blessing of God surround us(you)  
May angels and friends share (y)our journey  
May we(you) be wise and strong and creative  
May we(you) celebrate life and hope  
May God's image grow within us(you), gently, powerfully, tenderly  
May we(you) be cradled in warmth and healing  
May we(you) be held in God's wisdom and love  
May the gospel of life sustain us(you) all the days of (y)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> November 2022 at 5pm*

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