



# The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross Pershore

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## 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

(Cruger 'Gesangbuch' adapted Wm Henry Monk)

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater son!

hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!

he comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;

to take away transgression and rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.

O'er every foe victorious he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blest;  
the tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever – that name to us is love.

(James Montgomery 1771-1853)

### **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 60 : 1-9**

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their  
nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;

all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you;

they shall be acceptable on my altar, and I will glorify my glorious house.

Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows?

For the coastlands shall wait for me, the ships of Tarshish first,  
to bring your children from far away, their silver and gold with them,  
for the name of the LORD your God, and for the Holy One of Israel,  
because he has glorified you.

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Second Reading – Matthew 2 : 13-15**

Now after the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Hymn**

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

What child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
come, greet the infant Lord,  
the babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are sleeping?  
Good Christians, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,  
come rich and poor, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the Virgin sings her lullaby:  
joy, joy for Christ is born,  
the babe, the Son of Mary.

(Greensleeves – arr. John Stainer)

## 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:

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)

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,  
In the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid;  
Lift up your voices: Lord is near,  
Lift up your voices: the Lord is near.

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

(Jack W. Hayford B.1934)

Majesty, worship his majesty;  
unto Jesus be glory, honour and praise.  
Majesty, kingdom authority  
flow from his throne  
unto his own; his anthem raise.  
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus;  
magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King.  
Majesty, worship his majesty,  
Jesus who died, now glorified,  
King of all kings.

(Repeat)

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 5pm*

