



# The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross Pershore

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 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

(Michael 87 87 33 7)

1. All my hope on God is founded;  
he doth still my trust renew.  
Me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown, he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.

2. Human pride and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray his trust;  
what with care and toil he buildeth,  
tower and temple fall to dust.  
But God's power, hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.

3. God's great goodness aye endureth  
deep his wisdom, passing thought.  
Splendour, light and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of nought.  
Evermore, from his store,  
new-born worlds rise and adore.

4. Still from earth to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done.  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ his Son.  
Christ doth call one and all,  
ye who follow shall not fall.

(Paraphrased by Robert Bridges 1844-1930)

### **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 - Proverbs 8.22-31**

The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of long ago.  
Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.  
When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.  
Before the mountains had been shaped,  
before the hills, I was brought forth—  
when he had not yet made earth and fields,  
or the world's first bits of soil.  
When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of the deep,  
when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
then I was beside him, like a master worker;  
and I was daily his delight,  
rejoicing before him always,  
rejoicing in his inhabited world  
and delighting in the human race.

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

### **Second Reading - Luke 12.22-31**

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

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

### **Hymn**

(Karen Lafferty arr. Adrian Vernon Fish)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
and his righteousness,  
and all these things shall be given unto you;  
allelu-alleluia

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu-alleluia.*

You shall not live by bread alone,  
but by ev'ry word  
that proceeds from the mouth of God;  
allelu-alleluia

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu-alleluia.*

Cont.

Ask and it shall be given unto you,  
seek and ye shall find;  
knock and it shall be opened unto you;  
allelu-alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu-alleluia.*

(Karen Lafferty)

## 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**

(Margaret Rizza)

You are the centre, you are my life,  
you are the centre, O Lord of my life.  
Come Lord and heal me, Lord of my life,  
come Lord and teach me, Lord of my life.  
You are the centre, Lord of my life.

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

*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

(Graham Kendrick b.1950)

Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,  
set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory,  
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,  
so our faces display your likeness,  
ever changing from glory to glory;  
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

## 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.

# Dismissal

Let us go into the world in the joy and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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*Our next service is on  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
at 5pm*

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Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New, Common Ground and Worship Songs and Mission England & Worship Songs Ancient and Modern

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