



The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross Pershore

Sunday 14th May 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

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

1. Alleluia, sing to Jesus,
his the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia, his the triumph,
his the victory alone;
hark the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood:
Jesus, out of every nation,
hath redeemed us by his blood.

3. Alleluia, bread of angels,
here on earth our food, our stay;
alleluia, here the sinful
come to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

2. Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how;
though the cloud from sight received
him, when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?

4. Alleluia, King eternal,
he the Lord of lords we own;
alleluia, born of Mary,
earth his footstool, heav'n his throne;
he within the veil has entered
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
he on earth both priest and victim
in the Eucharistic Feast.

(Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams)

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 – I Kings 17:17-end

After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill; his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. She then said to Elijah, 'What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to cause the death of my son!' But he said to her, 'Give me your son.' He took him from her bosom, carried him up into the upper chamber where he was lodging, and laid him on his own bed.

He cried out to the LORD, 'O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I am staying, by killing her son?' Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried out to the LORD, 'O LORD my God, let this child's life come into him again.' The LORD listened to the voice of Elijah; the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. Elijah took the child, brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and gave him to his mother; then Elijah said, 'See, your son is alive.' So the woman said to Elijah, 'Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth.'

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Second Reading - Luke 7.11-23

Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, 'Do not weep.' Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, 'Young man, I say to you, rise!' The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, 'A great prophet has risen among us!' and 'God has looked favourably on his people!' This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. So John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' When the men had come to him, they said, 'John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"' Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits, and had given sight to many who were blind. And he answered them, 'Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn

(Trad. Welsh melody)

Lord, we come to ask your healing, teach us of love;
all unspoken shame revealing, teach us of love.
take our selfish thoughts and actions,
petty feuds, divisive factions,
hear us now to you appealing, teach us of love.

Soothe away our pain and sorrow, hold us in love;
grace we cannot buy or borrow, hold us in love.
though we see but dark and danger,
though we spurn both friend and stranger,
though we often dread tomorrow, hold us in love.

Help us live for one another, bind us in love,
stranger, neighbour, father, mother - bind us in love.
all are equal at your table,
through your Spirit make us able
to embrace as sister, brother – bind us in love.

(Jean Holloway, b.1939)

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 a prayer for the peoples of Ukraine, Sudan and Yemen

‘Lord of all the earth be present with all people at this time of danger, fear and conflict. Grant that wise and peaceable counsels may 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)

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: the 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

(Faithfulness (Runyan))

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided,
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Thomas Obadiah Chisholm (1866-1960)

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 11th June 2023 at 5pm