



# The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross Pershore

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## 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

(Regent Square – Henry Smart)

God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy power;  
now fulfil thy Church's story;  
bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
scorn thy Christ assail his ways;  
from the fears that long have bound us  
free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness,  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in goods and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places,  
gird our lives that they may be  
armoured with all Christlike graces  
as we set your people free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we fail the world or thee.

(Henry Emerson Fosdick 1878-1969)

### **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**

# Readings from Scripture

## First Reading – Psalm 104:24-32+35

O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.

There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

when you give to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; may the LORD rejoice in his works—who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more.

Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

## Second Reading – Mark 9:14-24

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. He asked them, 'What are you arguing about with them?' Someone from the crowd answered him, 'Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid;

and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.' He answered them, 'You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.' And they brought the boy to him.

When the spirit saw him, immediately it threw the boy into convulsions, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the father, 'How long has this been happening to him?' And he said, 'From childhood. It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.' Jesus said to him, 'If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes.' Immediately the father of the child cried out, 'I believe; help my unbelief!'

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

# Hymn

(Graham Kendrick b.1950)

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,  
Lord in the suffering this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children, justice, joy peace,  
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,  
give us compassion, we pray;  
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain;  
come change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,  
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills.  
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,  
cities for sanctu'ry, freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams,  
plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams.  
Lord end our madness carelessness, greed;  
make us content with the things that we need.

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame,  
until your justice burns brightly again;  
until the nations learn of your ways,  
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.

*Refrain*

## Reflection

### 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 and the Holy Land*

‘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 healing 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 now invite everyone to come forward for healing prayer and to receive a tealight.**

*After we have returned to our seats we sing:*

## Hymn

(Jacques Berthier 1923-19994)

○ Lord, hear my prayer, ○ Lord, hear my prayer;  
When I call answer me.  
○ Lord hear my prayer, ○ Lord, hear my prayer;  
Come and listen to me.

*(repeat 3 more times)*

*We say together:*

**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

(St Cecilia – LG Hayne)

1. Thy kingdom come, ○ God,  
thy rule, ○ Christ, begin;  
break with thine iron rod  
the tyrannies of sin.

2. Where is thy reign of peace  
and purity and love?  
When shall all hatred cease,  
as in the realms above?

3. When comes the promised time  
when war shall be no more,  
and lust, oppression, crime  
shall flee thy face before?

4. We pray thee, Lord, arise,  
and come in thy great might;  
revive our longing eyes,  
which languish for thy sight.

5. O'er lands both near and far  
thick darkness broodeth yet:  
arise, ○ morning star,  
arise and never set.

(Lewis Hensley 1824-1905)

# 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 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 5pm  
in Pershore Abbey*

