



The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross Pershore

Sunday 13th July 2025

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

(Dream Angus)

Christ's is the world in which we move,
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love,
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,
and Christ is the one who meets us here.

*To the lost Christ shows his face;
to the unloved he gives his embrace;
to those who cry in pain or disgrace
Christ makes with his friends a touching place.*

Feel for the people we most avoid,
strange or bereaved or never employed;
feel for the women and feel for the men
who fear that their living is all in vain.

Feel for the parents who've lost their child,
feel for the women whom men have defiled,
feel for the baby for whom there's no breast
and feel for the weary who find no rest.

Feel for the lives by life confused,
riddled with doubt, in loving abused;
feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin,
which longs to be pure but fears to begin.

*To the lost Christ shows his face;
to the unloved he gives his embrace;
to those who cry in pain or disgrace
Christ makes with his friends a touching place.*

(John L Bell & Graham Maule)

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 145:8-14

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion; slow to anger and of great mercy.

The Lord is good to all and his tender mercies are over all his works.

All your works shall praise thee, O Lord, and the saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and talk of your power; to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and your kingdom endures throughout all generations.

The Lord upholds all that fall and raises up all that are bowed down.

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

Second Reading – Acts 18:1-10

Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he found a Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla because Claudius had commanded all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them and, because they were of the same trade, he stayed with them and they worked together as tentmakers. Every Sabbath he would argue in the synagogue and would try to convince Jews and Greeks.

When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia Paul was occupied with proclaiming the word, testifying to the Jews that the Messiah was Jesus. When they opposed and reviled him, in protest he shook the dust from his clothes and said to them, 'Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.' Then he left the synagogue and went to the house of a man named Justus, a worshipper of God whose house was next door to the synagogue. Crispus, the official of the synagogue, became a believer in the Lord, together with all his household. Many of the Corinthians who heard Paul became believers and were baptized. One night the Lord said to Paul in a vision, 'Do not be afraid but speak and do not be silent for I am with you and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, for there are many in this city who are my people. He stayed there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

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

Hymn

(Drakes Broughton – Edward Elgar)

1. God! When human bonds are broken
and we lack the love or skill
to restore the hope of healing,
give us grace and make us still.

3. You are in us, bruised and broken:
hear us as we seek release
from the pain of earlier living
set us free and grant us peace.

2. Through that stillness, with your Spirit
come into our world of stress,
for the sake of Christ forgiving
all the failures we confess.

4. Send us, God of new beginnings,
humbly, hopeful into life.
use us as a means of blessing:
make us stronger, give us faith.

5. Give us faith to be more faithful,
give us hope to be more true,
give us love to go on leaning:
God! Encourage and renew!

(Fred Kaan b. 1929)

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 all the suffering people of the world and 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:

Lord of life, we come to you;
Lord of all, our Saviour be;
come to bless and to heal
with the light of your love.

Through the days of doubt and toil,
in our joy and in our pain,
guide our steps in your way
make us one in your love.

(Eriskay Love Lilt)

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

(Love Divine)

Lay your healing hand upon us
Jesus, when we cry in pain;
bind our wounds with your compassion;
bring us back to health again.
Hold us like a gentle mother,
heal the hurt we feel inside,
set us on our feet and make us
strong to take life in our stride.

With the confidence you give us,
give us your compassion too,
so that we may offer others
comfort, healing, strength from you.
Then, whatever grief awaits us,
as we learn your gentle ways,
we will share your joyful Spirit
and forever sing God's praise.

(JL Bell & G Maule)

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 10th August
at 5pm in Pershore Abbey*

Common Worship: Pastoral Services, materials from which are included in this service is copyright © The Archbishop's Council 2000.
Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New, Common Ground and Worship Songs and Mission England & Worship Songs Ancient and Modern
Pershore Abbey Copyright Licence No. 46441