



# The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross Pershore

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August 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

(Amor Dei/Slane)

Love is the touch of intangible joy;  
love is the force that no fear can destroy;  
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the lilt of a lingering voice;  
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;  
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;  
love is the will to be whole once again;  
love is the trust of a friend on the road:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker and Spirit an Son;  
love is the kingdom their will has begun;  
love is the pathway the saints have all trod:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

(John L Bell)

### **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 – Acts 28:1-5/7-10**

After Paul and his companions had reached safety they then learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed unusual kindness. Since it had begun to rain and was cold, they kindled a fire and welcomed all around it. Paul had gathered a bundle of brushwood and was putting it on the fire when a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand they said to one another, 'This man must be a murderer; though he has escaped from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live.' Paul, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.

Now in the neighbourhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received and entertained them hospitably for three days.

It happened that his father lay sick in bed with fever and dysentery. Paul visited him and cured him by praying and laying his hands on him. After this happened the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured. They bestowed many honours on Paul and when he was about to set sail again they put on board all the provisions that were needed.

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

## **Second Reading – Luke 5:17-26**

One day while Jesus was teaching Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting nearby (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal. Just then some men came carrying a paralysed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the roof tiles, into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith he said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven you.' The scribes and the Pharisees began to question, 'Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?' When Jesus perceived their questionings he answered them, 'Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you', or to say, 'Stand up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins – he said to the one who was paralysed – 'I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home.' Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on and went to his home, glorifying God. Amazement seized all of them and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, 'We have seen strange things today.'

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

## **Hymn**

(Richmond)

Out of our failure to create  
a world of love and care;  
out of the depths of human life  
we cry to God in prayer.

Out of the darkness of our time,  
of days for ever gone,  
our souls are longing for the light,  
like watchers for the dawn.

Out of the depths we cry to God,  
whose mercy ends our night.  
Our human hole-and-corner ways  
by God are brought to light.

Hope in the Lord whose timeless love  
gives laughter where we wept;  
who every time, at every point  
his word has given and kept.

(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:*

Ubi Caritas, et amor,                      (J Berthier)  
Ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.  
(repeat three more times)  
(Where Charity and love are, God is there)

*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**

(Repton)

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways!  
re-clothe us in our rightful minds  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence praise,  
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word,  
rise up and follow thee,  
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus kelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!  
Interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace,  
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire,  
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,  
O still small voice of calm,  
O still small voice of calm.

(John Greenleaf Whittier 1807-1892)

# 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 14<sup>th</sup> September  
at 5pm in Pershore Abbey*

