



# The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross Pershore

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 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

(Trad. Irish melody)

Come, wounded Healer, your sufferings reveal –  
the scars you accepted, our anguish to heal.  
Your wounds bring such comfort in body and soul  
to all who bear torment and yearn to be whole.

Come, hated Lover, and gather us near,  
your welcome your teaching, your challenge to hear;  
where scorn and abuse cause rejection and pain,  
your loving acceptance makes hope live again.

Come, broken Victor, condemned to a cross –  
how great are the treasures we gain from your loss!  
Your willing agreement to share in our strife  
transforms our despair into fullness of life.

(Martin Leckebusch .1962)

### **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 – Psalm 103:1-8**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed  
like the eagle's.

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

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

## Second Reading – I Corinthians 1:18-25

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;

the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

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

### Hymn

(Hyfrydol)

I will sing the wondrous story  
of the Christ who died for me,  
how he left the realms of glory  
for the cross on Calvary.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story  
of the Christ who died for me –  
sing it with his saints in glory,  
gathered by the crystal sea.

I was lost but Jesus found me,  
found the sheep that went astray,  
raised me up and gently led me  
back into the narrow way.

Days of darkness still might meet me,  
sorrow's path I oft may tread;  
but his presence still is with me,  
by his guiding hand I'm led.

He will keep me till the river  
rolls its waters at my feet:  
then he'll bear me safely over,  
made by grace for glory meet.  
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story  
of the Christ who died for me –  
sing it with his saints in glory  
gathered by the crystal sea.

(arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams)

## 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:*

Bless the Lord, my soul  
and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul,  
who leads me into life.

(Jacques Berthier)

(repeat three 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

(Lobe Den Herren)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him for he is my health and salvation.  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;  
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when fainting sustaineth:  
hast thou not seen how thy heart's wishes have been  
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord who doth prosper thy work and defend thee,  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee:  
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
if to the end he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in us adore him!  
all that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him.  
Let the 'Amen' sound from his people again,  
gladly for ay we adore him.

(Joachim Neander 1650-1680  
Trans/ Catherine Winkworth 1827-1878)

# 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 12<sup>th</sup> October  
at 5pm in Pershore Abbey*