



The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross Pershore

Sunday 9th November 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

(Thornbury)

Thy hand, O God, has guided
thy flock from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written
full clear on every page;
our forebears owned thy goodness
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Through many a day of darkness,
through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely
to guard the nations's life.
Their gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, hope restored,
was all in this enfolded:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict
and cast away our crown?
Not so; in God's deep counsels
some better thing is stored:
we will maintain, unflinching,
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,
nor leave thy work undone;
with thy right hand to help us
the victory shall be won;
and then by all creation
thy name shall be adored.
And this shall be their anthem:
one Church, one Faith, one Lord.

(Edward Hayes Plumptre 1821-1891)

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 40:1-3/14-17

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.
He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.
He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.

Let all those be put to shame and confusion who seek to snatch away my life;
let those be turned back and brought to dishonour who desire my hurt.
Let those be appalled because of their shame who say to me, 'Aha, Aha!'
But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
May those who love your salvation say continually, 'Great is the Lord!'
As for me, I am poor and needy but the Lord takes thought for me.
You are my help and deliverer, do not delay, O God.

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

Second Reading – Romans 8:31-end

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, yes, who was raised, who sits at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long: we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Hymn

(Dambusters March)

God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble;
and we therefore will not fear,
though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble,
though swirling floods are raging
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

There is a flowing river,
within God's holy city,
God is in the midst of her –
she shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at his presence –
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

Come, see the works of our maker,
learn of his deeds all powerful;
wars will cease across the world
when he shatters the spear!
Be still and know your creator,
uplift him in the nations –
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

(Richard Bewes)

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:

Calm me, Lord, as you calmed the storm;
Still me, Lord, keep me from harm.
Let all the tumult within me cease;
Enfold me, Lord, in your peace

(repeat three more times)

(last time – Enfold me in your peace)

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

(Maccabaeus)

Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life!
Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love.
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.*

(Edmond Louis Budry 1854-1932
Trans. Richard Birch Hoyle 1875-1939)

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
'Light in our Darkness'
on Sunday 14th December
at 5pm in Pershore Abbey*