



# The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross Pershore

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## 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

(Cruger)

Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
great David's greater son!  
Hail in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
to bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
were precious in his sight.

Kings shall bow down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious  
he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest;  
the tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever,  
that name to us is Love.

(James Montgomery 1771-1854)

### **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 46**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evil doers assail me to devour my flesh – my adversaries and foes –  
they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

To live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

To behold the beauty of the Lord and to enquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble.;

He will conceal me under the cover of his tent;

He will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,

And I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

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

### **Second Reading – John 9:1-7**

As Jesus walked along he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned, he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day, night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.’

When he had said this he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and he spread it on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

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

## Hymn

(tune: Was Lebet)

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine;  
truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness  
these are the offering to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness  
he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

(John Samuel Bewley Monsell 1811-1875)

## 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**

Bless the Lord, my soul,  
And bless God's holy ame.  
Bless the Lord, my soul,  
Who leads me into life.

*(repeat three more times)*

*(Jacques Berthier 1923-1994)*

*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**

*(Melody Green)*

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

*Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,  
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain.

*Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,  
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

When I stand in glory, I will see his face,  
and there I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.

*Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,  
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

*(Based on Scripture)*

# 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.