



Healthcare Sunday 18th October

Father God, help us to come to you this morning with open and thankful hearts. Fill us with the joy and peace that comes with knowing you. Be with us as we walk in your light, rejoice in your love and reflect your glory.

Amen

Hymn 359: Jesus Shall Reign

Welcome

The Lord be with you,
and also with you

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Prayer of Confession

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself". There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,**

through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal through Jesus Christ our lord. **Amen**

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Collect for today:

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 51: 1 - 18

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your

verdict and justified when you judge.

⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

*¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.*

¹⁵ Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

*¹⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.*

¹⁸ May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.

Hymn 174: Firmly I Believe

Gospel Reading: Luke 5: 12 - 16

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

¹² While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

¹³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.

¹⁴ Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."

¹⁵ Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶ But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: Rev'd Petra Shakeshaft

As someone who for just over a month, has spent two days a week at Addenbrooke's as a Chaplain, as a former parish priest and, with the rest of you, living and worshipping throughout this time of Covid, healing is very much on my mind.

What do we mean when we talk about, pray about, pray *for* healing.

On an average day in the hospital, I see about fifteen people. We tend to see less of the 'normal' illness, injury and recovery and more people whose illness or injury is life-changing. We are given little information about *who* we are going to see; a name, a ward and bed number, a date of birth and the date they were last seen by someone in the chaplaincy if they've been in a while and some of them have been in for weeks, months.

I've learned to make a discrete note of the date of birth – and I'm learning gradually what each of the wards deals with; it helps me to prepare myself for the kind of person I might be visiting; an elderly person perhaps, waiting for a care package to go home or into a care home – or somewhere that isn't their home ...or who hasn't seen his wife of seventy two years for nine weeks and is lonely and pining...or if I'm to see a young woman struck down with leukaemia, who hasn't seen her two young children for eight weeks and knows she won't be home in time for their birthdays, or stroking the hand of a sixteen year-old whose head is stapled together like a zip and has no words left, or the distraught family of a mother whose life support is about to be switched off. It's a ministry of not being able to do very much and yet it seems to make a difference.

I'm reminded of something enlightening that I heard said some years ago. *Healing is not the same as a cure.* I cannot cure these people. I cannot heal them. But sometimes God uses me and my colleagues to give a little healing; a moment of healing in a period of brokenness, pain and loss.

The man in our Gospel reading today was in an advanced state of leprosy. There was no real hope of a cure and in 1st century Palestine leprosy was, not only a sign of the physical death that was to come, but also social death. Lepers were cut off from normal society and the belief system ensured that they bore the responsibility for their illness; it was a punishment from God for some wrongdoing.

*The person with such an infectious disease must wear torn clothes,
let his hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of his face and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!'
As long as he has the infection he remains unclean.
He must live alone; he must live outside the camp (Leviticus 13:45-46).*

A leper was then, considered, ritually unclean. Anyone touching a leper was also considered to be ritually unclean; they must stay at least six feet from anyone or risk having stones or mud thrown at him. Lepers were ostracised, excluded, isolated.

But for this one, he sees Jesus. He has heard he is a healer and so he takes his chance and goes and kneels before Jesus.

Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.

Not *can* you? Are you *able* to?

There is no doubt in the man's mind that Jesus *could* cure him. If God had brought this illness upon him, then surely, only God could heal. But then remember, he calls Jesus Lord.

The only question on his mind is, is Jesus willing? Jesus does the unthinkable.

He reaches down and touches the man –according to Jewish Law he has rendered himself unclean.

There's much about this story that resonates with today; the six foot or more distance the leper must keep from other people, the fear of touching one who is unclean.

It all sounds very like this Covid time. I'm also reminded of those pictures of Princess Diana touching people with Aids and what a difference it made, not just to those people, but to our attitudes. Please don't think I'm about to tell you to ignore government guidelines and start hugging one another again, though I know we're all longing for that.

But Jesus does something outrageous, not just by touching the man, but by saying to him *I do so choose*. Jesus is attentive to his *real* need to be accepted, cared about, loved and given hope and that, in itself, is healing.

In a hospital setting, there are those who recover physically against all the odds; there are those who should, but don't. There are some who are completely accepting of their limitations or poor health and others who rail against it. I guess, unless or until it happens, none of us knows how we will respond and so we must judge no one.

It's not always appropriate to touch someone in hospital – or in any context, and it's not always appropriate to pray with them, but I am struck, time and time again, that people almost always say they would like prayer, even if they have said they are not really 'religious' (and that seems to mean a lot of things), they almost always say it has helped them and often it's the point at which the tears come and people open up. It's the moment where their vulnerability is exposed, accepted, held, acknowledged and loved; a moment in which they become the object of attentiveness. It's the moment they have, what one lady described as a 'glimpse of God', a flash

of light in the darkness. It's a tiny thing, that spark of hope; a golden thread drawn out of the turmoil. It may not be lasting, but it is something to cling to; It's not a medical cure, but it is a moment of healing.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers

Creator God, whose Word goes on creating and recreating;
bring your healing, we pray, on all those people and places broken apart by warfare,
starved through famine and drought, corruption, selfishness and greed.
Heal divided nations, communities, families and broken individuals,
release the oppressed, the trafficked and prisoners of conscience.
Give wisdom to those who govern, that justice and peace may reign.

Redeemer God, who came among us and healed the sick;
Bring your healing, we pray, on all who suffer in body mind and spirit.
Give consolation to those in our hospitals and care homes,
and give attentiveness and compassion to those who care for them.
We pray for Addenbrooke's hospital at this difficult time
and for all those managing and preparing to accommodate more victims of Covid.

We pray for all those from these communities who are sick,
especially we pray for Mary, for Margaret Gray and for Janet Powell

and in a moment of silence we bring before you
all those whose names and needs rest on our own hearts.
Give us consideration and care for all those in need.

Sustainer God, Holy Spirit of life and peace;
Spread your healing wings over your church that we may be united in our faith;
that we may work together for the greater good of all people.
We pray for these communities of Sawston and Babraham.
Help us to be shining lights of your truth and love in these places
and witness to your unending care for each one of us and for your world.

The Peace:

Take a moment and offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for each other and our church family
church community. Maybe call or text someone who would enjoy sharing the peace with you.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy, that you may be kept safe and blameless in
spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn 552: O Worship The Lord

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours.
Now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn 77: Blest Are The Pure At Heart

Remembering the Lord's Supper:

Take a moment to remember the final meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. As we think about
this meal - with the washing of feet and bread and wine shared with friends - we remember
Jesus' offering of himself on the cross. We rejoice in his resurrection from the dead and look
forward to the coming of God's Kingdom. While we cannot receive Christ in the sacraments in the
usual way, we can be the presence of Christ in our homes and communities and we can be a
praying presence wherever we are.

Hymn 314: Immortal, Invisible

Closing Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you for this time of worship; may your love and peace remain with us in the coming days. Be with us in all that we will think, say and do so that our lives may reflect your glory. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen

If you have any prayer or pastoral needs, please don't hesitate to contact

Revd Petra Shakeshaft (07847 307416, petra_paul.shakeshaft@ntlworld.com)

Sally Bard (01223 501165, sally.bard2@gmail.com)