



**PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL**

**Online Service  
of Thanksgiving for the  
National Health Service**



**on the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of its foundation**

**Sunday July 5th**

**6.00pm**

## **Welcome and Introduction**

*The Reverend Dr Rowan Williams, Precentor*

Welcome to Peterborough Cathedral for this special service of thanksgiving for the founding of the National Health Service, 72 years ago today. In recognition of that moment and all it has meant to us since, particularly during the coronavirus crisis, the bishops of the Church of England have invited us all to spend some time today in prayer for the NHS and its staff.

At its founding, the NHS was intended to ensure that from birth to death, anyone in Britain should be able to access healthcare free at the point of delivery. In the 72 years since, amid rapid social and economic change, the founding values of the NHS have not changed. Resources are stretched thin. Yet throughout the coronavirus crisis this year, it has become clear to all of us how much we owe to those of all backgrounds who work to keep that vision alive.

The weekly ritual of clapping for carers has shown that we are aware that we *all* owe something to the NHS- maybe even our own lives, or the life of someone close to us. I saw that at first hand as a care worker, a placement student and a hospital chaplain in several different cities: so as well as a celebration in which we all share, putting this service together is my own tribute to the patients, staff and relatives whose stories I shared in. Some of the service is led by members of the Cathedral community who work in healthcare, and we'll also hear a special message from a former medical student who we now know as Bishop Donald.

And so we take a moment this evening to remember all that the NHS means to us, to pray for those who work for it and for all who come to it in search of care. And we offer our prayer in the name of God, who makes all of us in his image and longs for us to be whole.

God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation.

God the Son, you came that we might have life,  
and might have it more abundantly.

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies  
the temple of your presence.

Holy Trinity, one God,  
in you we live and move and have our being.

**All We praise and bless you, Lord.**

*The Precentor continues:*

One of the most well loved memorials in the Cathedral is to Edith Cavell, who was educated at Laurel Court in the Precincts. She trained as a nurse and cared for soldiers from both sides in the First World War. She was executed for treason in 1915 after helping over a hundred soldiers to escape German occupation. Her life and death predate the NHS, but her instinct as a nurse to care for all people, no matter what their background, is mirrored in the selflessness of so many who still dedicate their lives to caring for others.

So we pray:

**Prayer**

Cast your burden upon the Lord and he will sustain you.  
In returning and rest you shall be saved.  
In quietness and trust shall be your strength.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you taught us to love our neighbour  
and care for those in need,  
as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety,  
give us strength to comfort the fearful,  
to tend the sick,  
and to assure the isolated of your love and our love,  
for your name's sake.

**All Amen.**

Heavenly Father,  
you anointed your Son Jesus Christ  
with the Holy Spirit and with power  
to bring to us 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, your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**All Amen.**

### **First Reading**

*read by Dr Charlotte Dickens, GP, Thorpe Road Practice*

Honour physicians for their services, for the Lord created them;  
for their gift of healing comes from the Most High, and they are rewarded by  
the king. The skill of physicians makes them distinguished, and in the presence  
of the great they are admired.

The Lord created medicines out of the earth, and the sensible will not despise  
them. Was not water made sweet with a tree in order that its power might be  
known? And he gave skill to human beings that he might be glorified in his  
marvellous works. By them the physician heals and takes away pain; the  
pharmacist makes a mixture from them. God's works will never be finished;  
and from him health spreads over all the earth.

My child, when you are ill, do not delay, but pray to the Lord, and he will heal  
you. Give up your faults and direct your hands rightly,  
and cleanse your heart from all sin. Offer a sweet-smelling sacrifice,  
and a memorial portion of choice flour, and pour oil on your offering, as much  
as you can afford.

Then give the physician his place, for the Lord created him; do not let him  
leave you, for you need him.

There may come a time when recovery lies in the hands of physicians, for they  
too pray to the Lord that he will grant them success in diagnosis and in healing,  
for the sake of preserving life.

*Sirach 38: 1-14*

## Anthem

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.  
Love is strong as death.  
Greater love hath no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends.  
Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,  
that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.  
Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.  
Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation;  
that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of  
darkness into his marvellous light.  
I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies, a  
living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,  
which is your reasonable service.

*Words: Song of Solomon 8: 7 & 6; John 15: 13; 1 Peter 2: 24; 1 Corinthians 6: 11;  
1 Peter 2: 9; Romans 12: 1*

*Music: John Ireland (1879–1962)*

*From the CD Choral Music from Peterborough Cathedral  
Peterborough Cathedral Choir, directed by Christopher Gower*

## Second Reading

*read by Dr Janice Allister, retired GP*

The king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

*Matthew 25: 35-40*

## **Homily**

*The Right Revd Donald Allister, Bishop of Peterborough*

## **Prayers**

*read by Gloria Nyakageni, Senior Registered Nurse Specialist*

Let us pray.

As we give thanks today for the founding vision of the NHS, we pray for all who work for it, and all who need its care.

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured or disabled, that they may know that you are with them.

Grant to all who are lonely, anxious or depressed a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence. We pray especially for those who are being cared for in hospitals, hospices and care homes, and who cannot see their families.

Grant wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience to all who minister to those who are suffering. Especially we pray for nurses, doctors, healthcare chaplains and medical staff: all those on the front line of providing care to those in need. We ask your blessing on those who are made anxious and stressed by the work they do. As they seek to bring healing to others, may they know your wholeness.

We pray for the dying, that they may know your peace, and we ask that the Holy Spirit may bring comfort and strength to all who are bereaved.

Remember in your mercy those for whom we pray:  
heal the sick, raise the fallen, strengthen the fainthearted  
and enfold in your love the fearful and those who have no hope.  
In the fullness of time complete your gracious work.  
Reconcile all things in Christ and make them new,  
that we may be restored in your image, renewed in your love,  
and serve you as sons and daughters in your kingdom.

**All    Amen**

## **The 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.**

## **Blessing**

May Christ bring you wholeness  
of body, mind and spirit,  
deliver you from every evil,  
and give you his peace:  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All            Amen.**

## **Organ Voluntary**

*Material from Common Worship: Pastoral Services included in this service is  
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