

**Poole Bay Methodist Circuit Worship
Sunday 3rd May 2026**

Healing Hope - Led by Reverend Sarah Knebel

Hello and welcome to this time of worship as we reflect on the vision, the promise, the hope we are offered in Revelation of a new heaven and a new earth, where all people will one day live in peace.

Prayer:

Jesus said, “Do you want to be made well?”

Awaken us, Lord, to your light;
open our eyes to your presence.

Gather us beneath the tree of life
and lead us beside the crystal waters.

God of light and life,

You see our problems and our pains:

help us to open our hearts and minds to you,
to receive your healing and forgiveness.

And may we bring hope and healing to others.

Hymn: [StF 466 Have faith in God, my heart](#)

1. Have faith in God, my heart,
trust and be unafraid;
God will fulfil in every part
each promise he has made.
2. Have faith in God, my mind,
for when your light burns low;
God's mercy holds a wiser plan
than you can fully know.
3. Have faith in God, my soul;
his cross for ever stands;
and neither life nor death can pluck
his children from his hands.
4. Lord Jesus, make me whole;
grant me no resting place,
until I rest, heart, mind, and soul,
the captive of your grace.

Bryn Rees (1911–1983)

Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 466

Prayer:

Creator God,
Alpha and Omega, beginning and end,
we praise you for your constant and unfailing love for
all that you have made.

On the seventh day, the sabbath day,
you looked upon your creation,
upon all that you had made and you said,
“It is good.”

As people we have come
 and we have damaged all that you have made,
 and yet you never give up on us.
 You sent your Son Jesus,
 that we might learn of your love for us,
 that we might be challenged by his invitation to change.
 Through his death and resurrection,
 you lit up our world with your glory,
 and yet still we did not recognize you.
 Still today you bring about hope and healing
 in our lives and in our world,
 guiding us by your Holy Spirit
 and using us to bring your light to others.
 One day, you have said,
 there will be no more darkness,
 no more pain, no more disappointment.
 One day all people and all nations will be at peace.
 Lord, in you we place our trust,
 in you we place our hope.
 Creator, Redeemer, Promise-keeper,
 Companion on the way,
 Light in our darkness,
 we worship you,
 in adoration praise.
 Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Lord, you give us life,
 but there are times when we don't live life the way
 you wish us to;
 when we give up; sensing only negativity,
 hopelessness and despair.
 Forgive us when we see only the gloomy downside of situations.
 Forgive us when circumstances take over and moaning is easier than making things right.
 Dark times sap our strength and courage and blind us to your light.
 Renew our strength and determination to find our way into your healing light
 Forgive us and rekindle the light of your hope in these times, Lord, Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Reading: Revelation 21: 10,22 & 22: 1-5

The angel carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

A Reflection: Healing Hope, but do we really want it?

Our reading from Revelation today offers us a beautiful picture of restoration, of hope, where God's perfect earth, created right back at the beginning of time is made new by God. Here in this vision we are taken back to the very beginning of our Bible, to Genesis, where we witness the separation of earth and heaven and the creation of a garden which had the tree of life at its centre. We are taken back to a place, that after it had been created, God looked at and said that it was "good". We are taken back to a time, when everything was perfect, everything was harmonious, when everything was peaceful, where everything was at one with God.

But we also look forward, for this vision tells us of a time when our human story will reach its conclusion, when God's creation will be made whole once more, when earth and heaven will be reunited again. It's a vision of a new city, a holy place, filled with God's generous love, where the glory of the Lord shines not in a temple, but over the whole city and its citizens and it shines so brightly that not only is no other light necessary, but also the darkness of night, sin, is eradicated. Within the city stands the tree of life; the tree of life that was once denied to Adam, is now given to all who depend on God. Nourished by the river of life it's fruit never runs out and its leaves offer healing; to the nations, to people among the nations, to plants, to animals, to the soil and the air. This tree heals the wounded hearts of the nations, their despair and their depression. It heals every being and every thing. Together the water of life, the tree of life and the light of God's glory offer us hope, hope for a future when all shall be well, when there shall be no more sorrow or war, when all shall be as God intended, when earth and heaven shall be restored.

Yet, the beauty of this vision in these verses is hard to picture right now in this broken and damaged world. Can we even begin to imagine this image of a new creation, where from the throne room of God flows the river of life, through a glittering and sparkling city, radiant with God's glory, and overflowing with healing hope, when we are faced daily with images on our television screens of cities destroyed by war, by human greed and ambition, of a world where innocent, peace-loving people are forced from their homes by the threat of violence and war, where a staggering 1 in 3 healthcare facilities worldwide have no-where for doctors and nurses to wash their hands, where disease can ravage bodies, and where we can have water on tap and supermarket shelves stacked high with food, whilst others walk for miles to get water and have very little to eat? As we look at our world, it seems hardly possible, doesn't it? And yet, the promise stands that one day the world will be healed, one day it will be at peace.

In many of the Gospel accounts, where there is a need for healing, Jesus first asks, "Do you want to be made well?" or perhaps the question is a little more pointed, "Do you *really* want to be made well?" In these situations, I often wonder, whether Jesus is really asking not "Do you want to get better?" but "Do you want to be changed? Do you have an intense desire for it, or are you content to remain as you are? Just as Jesus was central to these healings, so Jesus is also central to the promised restoration of the world. John's vision only makes sense, only becomes possible because of Jesus, who himself died on a tree and who, by his sacrificial death and glorious resurrection restored the chasm between heaven and earth. The question then is, "Do we really want to be made well?" In the vision that John receives, God gives us hope and, through Jesus, God offers us the opportunity to live out that hope in the here and now, but are we ready to accept the change necessary for ourselves and for the world to do that? Or have we been comfortable to live in such a way that we have plenty, while others have little for too long? It is one thing to have a vision, but what of the sacrifice that is required to ensure the levelling out required within society, within our world that would enable all people to live life in all its fullness? Are we prepared to accept what is really necessary for our own well-being and for the healing of the planet? Are we ready to let the river of life heal and nourish everything? Or will we continue to step past those who have no-one to help them as we push forward to our own self-contained end?

The healing that Jesus offers is the reality that the created world is looking for, the beginning of a new creation. Jesus is bringing new life, a new creation, that God has promised will burst through into the present world, bringing healing and new possibilities. How do we live out that hope? Jesus, invites us to cross over our boundaries, our prejudices our injustices, and to love one another. To extend our horizons and to share what we have, because love brings healing. It heals nations, it heals the whole of creation and the earth. It heals every being and every thing in heaven and on earth. It heals us. And it starts with us, through Jesus, with the Spirit. "Do we want to get better? Do we want the world to get better? Do we want to be changed and for the world to

change? May we have the intensity of desire and determination to make the effort, hopeless though it may seem, to give the power of Christ the opportunity to change us, to heal us and to restore the world to the perfect creation God intended it to be.

Hymn: [StF 696 For the healing of the nations](#)

1. For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.
2. Lead us forward into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.
3. All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.
4. You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Fred Kaan (1929–2009)
Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 662

Prayer:

Creator God,
we lay this broken world
in sorrow at your feet,
haunted by hunger, war and fear,
oppressed by power and hate.

Where all is not well,
Lord Jesus, please bring hope;
Please bring healing.

Here human life seems less
than profit, might and pride,
though to unite us all in you,
you lived and loved and died.

Where all is not well,
Lord Jesus, please bring hope;
Please bring healing.

We bring our broken towns,
our neighbours hurt and bruised;
you show us how old pain and wounds
for new life can be used.

Where all is not well,
Lord Jesus, please bring hope;
Please bring healing.

We bring our broken loves,
friends parted, families torn;
then in your life and death we see
that love must be reborn.

Where all is not well,
Lord Jesus, please bring hope;
Please bring healing.

We bring our broken selves,
confused and closed and tired;
then through your gift of healing grace
new purpose is inspired.

Where all is not well,
Lord Jesus, please bring hope;
Please bring healing.

In a time of quiet, we bring our own prayers to God for the people and places on our hearts at this time.

Where all is not well,
Lord Jesus, please bring hope;
Please bring healing.

O Spirit, on us breathe,
with life and strength anew;
find in us love, and hope, and trust,
and lift us up to you.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Hymn: [StF 410 Lord your church on earth is seeking, your renewal from above.](#)

1. Lord, your Church on earth is seeking
your renewal from above;
teach us all the art of speaking
with the accent of your love.
We would heed your great commission:
sending us to every place —
preach, baptise, fulfil my mission,
serve with love and share my grace.

2. Freedom give to those in bondage,
lift the burdens caused by sin.
Give new hope, new strength and courage,
grant release from fears within:
light for darkness; joy for sorrow;
love for hatred; peace for strife.
These and countless blessings follow
as the Spirit gives new life.

3. In the streets of every city
where the bruised and lonely dwell,
let us show the Saviour's pity,
let us of his mercy tell.
In all lands and with all races
let us serve, and seek to bring
all the world to render praises,
Christ, to you, Redeemer, King.

Hugh Sherlock (1905–1998)
Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 410

Blessing

Glorious God, you shine your light
into the dark places of our lives and of our world.
Gentle God, you touch us with healing love
and make us whole.
Be with us this week and shine through us,
that we might bring hope and healing to others,
through the power of your love.

Amen.

Every blessing to you all.
Rev Sarah