



Resource Centre

From our Churches

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Date:

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Service of Anointing and Prayer

Prelude

Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

Call to Worship

Hymn: "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

Scripture Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

[Followed by commentary on the body imagery: 1) we are bodies in need of God's healing and nurturing care; 2) the church is a body; 3) Christ, the head of the body, is remembered in communion, symbol of his broken body.]

Call to Confession

- Silent Confession
- Assurance of Pardon

Congregational Prayer

Communion

- Introduction
- Invitation
- Words of Institution and Prayer
- Sharing the Bread and Wine
- Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offering

Introduction to Healing Service

"The next part of our service is unusual for us; therefore to ease our possible anxiety, I want to explain what will be happening and why."

"Health of body, mind, spirit and relationships has been part of our heritage of faith from its beginning. The scripture passages that will be read in a moment illustrate this fact. Unfortunately, we have in recent years delegated this work to

professionals who do their tasks outside the life of the church, and we may sometimes forget that life and health come as a gift from God our creator. While we value and trust the work of the many kinds of health care workers, this service is intended as a reminder that we are ultimately dependent upon God for salvation and wholeness.”

“This is not magic. Anointing with oil and laying on of hands are symbolic acts of claiming for God’s rule the person so touched. The persons who have requested this ritual and our prayers have done so as a way of committing themselves and their illness to God. We expect that God’s Spirit will move through these actions and these prayers to bring peace, strength, hope and comfort. We expect that healing of bodily ailments will take place. Because our bodies are finite and destined for death, this healing may not take the form of restoration of perfect health, but of health relative to what otherwise be experienced.”

“When we come to that part of the service, I will give further instruction. To prepare for that we want to give our attention to the scriptures and to prayer, and to a hymn that affirms that our faith is a living power from heaven. Please enter into this time with an open and expectant heart.”

Scripture Lessons: *Isaiah 40:27-31, Luke 4:14-21*

Unison Prayer [*printed*]

“Gracious God, we give you thanks for your care and love, especially as it was demonstrated by your Son, Jesus Christ. For his teachings, his example of love and service, his suffering and death we give thanks. For his mission in revealing your will to proclaim release to the captive, recovery of sight to the blind and liberty to those who are oppressed, we praise you. For your gift of the Holy Spirit, active in our spirits, minds and bodies we praise you. Through the Holy Spirit, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, that we may truly love you and worship you in spirit and in truth. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.”

Scripture Lesson: *James 5:13-16*

Explanation of Procedure [*names, etc. may be changed as appropriate*]

“[Two men] have both requested prayer and anointing in response to the [cancers] that are in [their] bodies, alongside the medical and surgical treatment that [they] are receiving. [The wives of the men] have requested prayer because of the many and profound ways in which their [husbands’] illnesses affect them. These [couples] will come forward and will be seated, [one couple] at a time, and we will pray for them one person at a time: first [one] and [his wife], then [the second] and [his wife].”

“[Their] families and anyone else who wished to participate, may come forward to join the prayer circle. Those who are closest will be able to lay hands on the shoulder of the person for whom we are praying. Others will lay their hands on the shoulder of the person in front of them. Those of you who do not come forward, are simply to stand at your seats as you expression of participation in these prayers.”

“As [the two men] have requested anointing, I will apply a small amount of oil [their] foreheads. [The other pastor] and I will lead in the audible prayers. The rest of the congregation is invited to enter into the spirit of prayer, if you wish to add your ‘amen’ to the prayers that we pray.”

Laying on of Hands, Anointing and Prayer

Gathered around [the first person], [the pastor] anoints [him], saying: “I anoint you with oil in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May your weakness be turned to strength, your sorrow to joy, your illness to wholeness, harmony and peace, as you commit your body, mind and spirit into the care of our Lord.”

[The other pastor] prays: “Compassionate God, today we life _____ in a special way into your healing presence. In praise and gratitude, Holy God, we celebrate the healing and peace already known to _____ during [him] time of illness with [_____]. Give [him] a true inner peace in the midst of emotional turmoil. As [he] continues, grant ongoing healing and restoration of physical health and wholeness according to your good will and purpose. Great Physician, let your power flow in and through _____, energizing and empowering him to live positively with the limitations in his body, as well as the strains in relationships which come at a time of ill health. Bless _____ with all that is needful for health of body, mind and soul through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.”

Gathered around [his wife], [the pastor] blesses her, saying: “_____, God is your strength. God’s healing touch is upon you to release you from all distress and drive away all anxiety of spirit and soul. In the name of Jesus Christ, be restored to wholeness of being and abundance of life.”

[The other pastor] prays: “Loving God, we life _____ into your healing presence in this time of need. We give you thanks, steadfast God, for the comfort and assurance you have given to [her] in these past months through the Psalmist’s words. ‘Be still and know that I am God.’ Give _____ and [her] family a special measure of strength to deal with each day as they give love and support to _____. As _____ a sense of understanding and sensitivity to both her needs and to [her husband’s] needs. Turn fear and anxiety into peace, disappointment and despair into hope, anger into love and sadness into you. Fill _____ with life-giving energy of your love through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

General Prayer

“Loving and merciful God, we know that you hold all people in your care. Even as we have voiced our particular concern for these specific people, we are aware that each one of us has needs of many kinds. Some of these needs we know, others we have not yet discovered or acknowledged. These also we offer into your care. May the healing and restoring power of your Holy Spirit permeate each one of us, fulfilling your desire that we experience abundance of life.

It is our privilege to give you thanks and praise, acknowledging that it is you who gives us life and health and wholeness. Thank you for ministering to us in this experience. Make us ever mindful of your mercies, so that as we praise you, we may continue to be faithful servants of Jesus Christ, in whole name we pray. Amen.”

Doxology

Benediction