

HEALING SERVICE - 29th March 2020

Welcome to our Service. Sharing in this Healing Service seems particularly appropriate at this time when people in our nation and throughout the world are being affected so deeply by the Coronavirus pandemic.

As we begin our service, let us remind ourselves of the words of Isaiah 12:2:

'Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defence; he has become my salvation.'

We take a moment in the quiet to still our hearts and minds in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Opening responses

We come to God

In our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.

We come to God, who has come to us in Jesus

And who walks with us the road of our world's suffering.

We come with our hopes, our fears and our doubts,

We come as we are, because it is God who invites us and God has promised never to turn us away.

Old Testament reading: Psalm 130

We say together:

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

This is the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

New Testament reading: John 11:1 – 45

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+11%3A1-45&version=NIVUK>

This is the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Sermon - Brian Jones

Confession

The sun of righteousness has dawned
with healing in his wings.

Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself,

and cleanse us from all our sins

that we may behold the glory of his Son,

the Word made flesh,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Invitation to the Prayer Ministry

There are a number of ways in which we can engage with the Lord during this time or prayer at home, including the following:

- During this time of prayer ministry there is normally an opportunity to be anointed with the sign of the cross and to be prayed for. You might like to make the sign of the cross and then open your hands with palms up, in a gesture of receiving from the Lord. The following prayer will be said in the service, so receive it as being prayed over you:

In the name of God and trusting in his might alone, receive Christ's healing touch to make you whole. May Christ bring you wholeness of body, mind and spirit, deliver you from every evil, and give you his peace. Amen.

- If you are with others at home, you might like to pray for one another.
- Write a prayer(s) for yourself / a person on your heart and mind. If you have a Cross in your home, place your prayer at the foot of the Cross.
- Light a candle, as you pray for people you're concerned about, remembering that Jesus is the Light of world who has come that no one need walk in darkness.

Concluding Prayer

Lord God, you have promised that in Jesus we will find true peace which surpasses all human understanding. We pray that today you would grant us your strength and bestow upon us your peace, as we reflect on the many blessings you have given us. Through Christ our Lord, the true Prince of Peace. Amen.

Intercessions

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 forever. Amen.

Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding

keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God

and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

And the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among us and remain with us always.

Amen.

Closing words

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.