



We are Each Other's Keepers (V)
September 6th, 2020

Twin Towers United Methodist Church

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WORSHIP GUIDE

Before you begin your time of worship, find a comfortable place to be and gather whatever you might need: your Bible, some paper or a notebook, something to write with, your computer/connected device (if you intend to listen to music online), etc. Feel free to adapt this worship guide in any way that makes best sense to you and those you might be gathered with. (Consider inviting someone – a friend, a family member – to worship with you.) Commit to spending the next hour with God.

PRELUDE: “There’s a Spirit of Love in This Place”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDrkbo8rIbg>

WELCOME – Today, as we hear Jesus calling us to serve a world crying out for healing, we open our hearts to becoming His peace, His love, and His healing to one another. There is a spirit of love in this place.

OPENING HYMN - “Welcome” W&S 3152

Listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLomSmDyfsA>

Let’s walk together for a while
and ask where we begin
to build a world where love can grow
and hope can enter in,
to be the hands of healing
and to plant the seed of peace,

Refrain: singing welcome,
welcome to this place.
You’re invited to come
and know God’s grace.
All are welcome the love of God to share
‘cause all of us are welcome here;
all are welcome in this place.

2. Let’s talk together of a time
when we will share a feast,
where pride and power
kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
and joy will set the table
as we join our hands to pray, *refrain*

3. Let’s dream together of the day
when earth and heaven are one,
a city built of love and light,
the new Jerusalem,
where our mourning turns to dancing,
every creature lifts its voice, *refrai*

OPENING PRAYER – *You are invited to take a deep breath as you pray:*

Jesus, your love compels us to be who you would have us be. You challenge us to love one another and be instruments of your peace. You have called us to be your healing body to others. You encourage us to use the spiritual gifts for healing that your Holy Spirit has already placed within us. Jesus, you have called us to grow and become healers.

Grant us today, Lord, the faith to believe that you would not ask more of us than we can handle. Give us also the faith to believe that we can become the prayerful, loving, and fruitful healers God has commanded us to be. Help us believe. We thank you for strengthening us and fully preparing us to be your servants and disciples. We pray in your merciful name Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE - I Corinthian 12:12-13, 19-20, 25-31, and 1, 4-11, 27 (NSRV)

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

REFLECT -

The great and abiding love of Jesus compels each of us to be one another's keepers. We are called to look out for one another, pray for one another, help one another, encourage one another, give to one another, have empathy for one another, and with God's grace—to serve as conduits for the healing power of Jesus. After all, we are the body of Christ!

A year ago, God challenged this body to become a healing body—a body comprised of an army of healers. When God placed his plan on our hearts, we had no idea He was preparing us to be healers in the face of mounting catastrophes all in need of healing.

Though the idea of helping others heal may be frightening and even overwhelming for some of you, I want to assure you that God will provide what you need. Remember in Exodus when God told Moses he was to speak to the king of Egypt to which Moses responded, “You know I am a very poor speaker, and the king will never listen to me.” In response, God provided Aaron to help by doing the talking. God provided for Moses. Why wouldn't He provide for us too?

Several years ago, I was called by Jesus to develop a spiritual gifts ministry. I was shocked because I knew very little about spiritual gifts. Though I studied and learned, I still felt overwhelmed by the challenge. One day I prayed, “God, your vision for this spiritual gifts ministry is way more than I can handle.” In an instant, God responded with, “I have already provided.” As I contemplated those words, the number of people already in our church body

who could help organize, teach, and grow this ministry came into my mind. It was abundantly clear that God had provided.

Having faith that God doesn't ask us to do the impossible and believing that Jesus prepares us as disciples, I began to wonder if God hadn't already equipped many of us with gifts for healing in this time of catastrophe. Had the Holy Spirit planted and watered and grown seeds of healing spiritual gifts in us?

A review of the 20 spiritual gifts identified by the Apostle Paul revealed that about 1/3 of the spiritual gifts are related to healing. If we believe that the Holy Spirit has been preparing us to be healers, it is reasonable to expect that many of these healing gift seeds have already been planted and nurtured in many—if not all—of us.

Wouldn't it make you feel more comfortable about joining Jesus' healing army, if you thought there was a good chance you have some of the healing gifts already growing within you and probably being used by you? Though we don't have time to go through the spiritual gifts retreat right now since it takes about 8-10 hours, we're going to do a quick assessment of the 6 spiritual gifts I believe are related to healing. Let's see if God has already provided.

You will need a pencil and paper. Read the name of each spiritual gift and write it down. Read the definition of the gift and consider the meaning of the spiritual gift, consider how much of the time you have used that gift. If you have never used the spiritual gift, write an N next to it. If you have used it sometimes, write an S next to the spiritual gift. If you often use the gift, write an O next to the spiritual gift.

- Encouragement: The spiritual gift of encouragement is the ability to inspire, comfort, motivate, strengthen, and instill hope in others so that they can meet life's challenges with confidence.
- Generosity: The spiritual gift of generosity involves sharing your time, money, abilities, and self freely, willingly, and joyfully.
- Mercy: People with the spiritual gift of mercy have an exceptional ability to perform acts of kindness and compassion to others.
- Healings: The spiritual gift of healings is the miraculous capacity to bring God's healing to others—healing that surpasses ordinary human experience.
- Helping: People with the spiritual gift of helping have an enhanced sense of compassion and willingness to tangibly support others.

- **Shepherding:** People with the spiritual gift of shepherding gather people together, demonstrate a concern for their struggles and challenges, and work to protect them from trouble or harm.

My friends, looking at the results of this quick assessment, I believe God has already provided! With your pencil in hand, please circle one of the gifts you use that means the most to you. Thinking about this one gift, write a few words about a time when you felt blessed in using it.

Knowing that God has already planted some or all of these healing spiritual gifts in you, I challenge you to do 3 things:

1. Pay attention to your use of these gifts.
2. Notice who God places before you who is in need of His healing grace.
3. Make a plan for growing your healing gifts.
 - a. Learn more about your spiritual gifts.
 - b. Perfect your healing prayer abilities.
 - c. Expand your knowledge of the Bible.
 - d. Contribute to community change
 - i. Community health
 - ii. Racism
 - iii. Other?

Write down the step that would most help you grow your healing gifts.

My friends, God has commanded us to become healers. God has already extravagantly provided. We are the active, generous, and loving body of Christ. We are one another's keepers. Let there be no doubt that this is our time to grow into the healing challenge God has placed before us. Amen.

SONG OF MEDITATION - Your Love Compels Me

Listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mfrRyoqliY>

Your love compels me, Lord,
 To give as You would give,
 To speak as You would speak,
 To live as You would live.

Your love compels me, Lord,
 To see as You would see,
 To serve as You would serve,
 To be what You would be.

Your love compels me, Lord,
To pray as You would pray,
To touch as You would touch,
To say what You would say.
Your love compels me, Lord,
To feel as You would feel,

To sense as You would sense,
To heal as You would heal.

Your love compels me, Lord,
To give as You would give,
To heal as You would heal,
To live as You would live.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE – *Spend time in prayer. What did you hear for yourself through today’s scripture and reflection? Talk to God about it. Then lift up the joys and concerns that are in your heart. You might write them down, speak them aloud, or pray them in silence.*

Joys – places in our communal body that are healthy, connected, and strong

Concerns – the places in our communal body that are suffering and in pain

I would be honored to pray with you and for you.

Please send a note via text, mail, or email or give me a call if I can do so.

SHARING OUR GIFTS– *How might you offer yourself and all that you have to God this week? How are you being invited to practice generosity? Spend a moment listening for God’s direction.*

You are invited to contribute financially towards the purpose and ministry of TTUMC. We are a congregation committed to being conduits of God’s healing in our neighborhood and beyond, and in so doing, impact the last and the least. You can contribute by mailing in a check, dropping off cash, or giving online via PayPal (visit www.twintowersumc.org). Take a moment and do that now.

Please consider sending in a special donation for wildfire disaster relief and recovery through our Annual Conference. Thank you!

CLOSING HYMN - “Sent Out in Jesus’ Name,” TFWS 2184

Listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gz11Rg1ncaw>

Sent out in Jesus' name,
Our hands are ready now
To make the earth a place
In which the kingdom comes. (x2)

Enviado soy de Dios,
Mi mano lista está
Para construir con
El un mundo fraternal. (x2)

The angels cannot change
a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love,
of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do,
To set it really free.
O help us to obey
And carry out your will.

Los ángeles no son
enviados a cambiar
un mundo de dolor
por un mundo de paz.
Me ha tocado a mí
hacerlo realidad;
ayúdame, Señor,
a hacer tu voluntad.

BENEDICTION - May you have eyes that are open to the needs of others and a heart that responds with peace and love. May you have the confidence and faith needed to be an open conduit for Jesus' healing power. May you be the blessing to one another that God created you to be. Amen.

NOW GO AND PASS CHRIST'S PEACE!

You are invited to spend the next stretch reaching out. Pick up our directory and consider calling someone you don't yet know well or someone who might not know others. It doesn't need to be complicated. Perhaps something as simple as, "Hi! I'm calling to say 'hello'. How have you been?"



If you are on Facebook, please like and follow our page:
<https://www.facebook.com/ttuncAlameda/>

Scripture for Sunday, Sept. 13th - 1 Corinthians 12:12- 13:13

This week, please hold in God's light:

- The bold use of our spiritual gifts towards healing.
- **Phillip Taddei** healing and recovery journey.

- **Norah Gratz-Lazarus**, Milo & Imani's classmate, and her health and resilience.