

**A SERVICE OF HOPE & HEALING FOR ORDINARY TIME:
Bringing Healing Liturgies into Worship**

Note: prepare a bowl of water

PRELUDE **“What A Friend We Have In Jesus”** **UMH 526**

WELCOME Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator

INTRODUCTION Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples, COSSO Director of Spiritual Formation

IN CELEBRATION OF CREATION

God of power, as you open the blossoms and grow the grain

We celebrate your creation

God of salvation, as you provide beauty and serenity

We celebrate your grace in creation

God of strength, as you pour out living water

We celebrate your healing in creation

SCRIPTURE Psalm 104 (paraphrase)

Praise God, O my soul. O God, how great you are.

You cover yourself with glory and light.

You use the winds as your messengers and flashes of lightning as your servants.

You created the moon to mark the months; the sun knows the time to set.

You look at the earth and it trembles, you touch the mountains and they pour out smoke.

When you send your Spirit, all creation is renewed.

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

IN CELEBRATION OF FRIENDSHIP

For friends who walk with us

We give thanks for friendship

For friends who are always there

We give thanks for friendship

For friends who work and cry with us

We give thanks for friendship

For friends who break bread with us

We give thanks for friendship

For friends who pray and dream with us

We give thanks for friendship.

SCRIPTURE John 15:12-15 (NIV)

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants... instead, I have called you friends.

HYMN **“For the Beauty of the Earth”** **UMH 92**

REFLECTION Rev. Dr. Rebeka Maples

AN INVITATION TO HEALING & WHOLENESS

Peace be in the world and to all who gather here.

When the storms of life are raging,

Stand by me.

When my strength begins to fail,

Stand by me.

When my friends seem far away,

Stand by me.

HYMN "Stand By Me"

UMH 512

SCRIPTURE Luke 3:21-22 (NIV)

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

PRAYERS OF HEALING

Healing God, giver of life and all good things, we bow before you with all that weighs on our hearts and minds. There is much trouble in the world and many things that separate us from you and our sense of community. In these moments of worship, remind us of your presence in our world and in our lives from birth to death, revive us in the hope of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, that we may renew our connections with you and each other. Help us love what you love.

Hear us as we lift our prayers to you...

(prayers for those who are suffering may be offered in the chat, or aloud after unmuting)

BLESSING WITH WATER

(The baptismal font or bowl of water may be set in the front; the leader moves near the font which has pebbles in the bottom and touches the water. The pebbles allow people to feel the water over their hands and to carry a reminder of God's love with them.)

Today we remember God's love in the healing power of water. This is not a baptism but a remembrance of God's love that is poured out at baptism. Even if you have not been baptized this is a remembrance that God's love is for all of us.

When nothing existed but chaos, the Breath of God swept across the waters and brought forth light.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

In the fullness of time God sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb and baptized in water.

Remember God's love and give thanks to the Lord, for the gift of water.

Holy Spirit, come and breathe on us, guide us and inspire us, let us know your power through this water. Power to heal, power to comfort, power to renew.

Holy Spirit, breathe on us.

Remember God's gift of love that heals and renews.

Send your Holy Spirit to us, that we may feel your healing presence and be renewed in hope and the power of your love.

(Soft background music is played and people may come forward to touch the water and take a pebble; for small groups the water may be passed around the circle.)

For our online service, let us pray and feel the water flow over our hands

BACKGROUND MUSIC **“Come to the Water” instrumental**

AS WE COME TO THE WATER

As we come to the water, O God, find us where we are,
separated from loved ones,
crossing into unknown waters,
not knowing where to turn.

Find us, O God.

As we come to the water, O God,
stand with the lost and lonely,
heal the sick and suffering,
mend the broken places,

Find us, O God.

As we come to the water, O God,
sing to us your songs,
shine your light throughout the earth,
pour out streams of living water,
renew us in the image of your creation,

Renew us, O God, in your Spirit.

CLOSING PRAYER

Our worship is now over and our service begins.
May we see the love of God around us,
in the beauty of creation and the blessing of friends.
May God give us comfort from our suffering
and bring hope and peace to all the world,
in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

POSTLUDE **“The Lord’s My Shepherd”**

Sources:

Ruth Burgess, Moments of our nights and days, Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose, 2014.

Ruth Burgess, Summer: liturgical resources, Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose, 2020.

Abigail Rian Evans, Healing Liturgies for the Seasons of Life, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004.

Services of Healing, UMC Book of Worship.