

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

Note: prepare a bowl with small amount of olive oil or other anointing oil

PRELUDE **“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”** UMH 382

WELCOME Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator

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

GREETING

Grace and peace be with you, from God our Creator and Christ our Savior.
Almighty God, giver of life and health, send your blessing to us and on all who are suffering in mind, body, or spirit, and upon those who minister to them, that peace and wellness may come to them through your abiding love. Amen

OPENING RESPONSES

O God, who created the heavens,
We praise you.
You formed the earth and gave breath to life,
We praise you and thank you, O God.
You sent your Spirit to open the eyes of the blind,
to heal the broken-hearted,
to bring good news to the poor,
and rescue the oppressed.
Your kingdom come, O Lord.
Your will be done.
And we will sing a new song, O Lord,
And praise your name for ever.

HYMN **“Take My Life and Let It Be”** UMH 399, Arr. By Group Publishing

SCRIPTURE **Selections from Galatians 5:1, 13-26** (*The Message*)

REFLECTION **“The Life of Freedom, To Live by the Spirit”**

Rev Dr Brenda Buckwell

COS faculty currently teaching COS 123, received her M.Div. from Boston University and D.Min. from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. An elder in the West Ohio Annual Conference, she is the founder and spiritual director of Living Streams Flowing Water.

HYMN **“There is a Balm in Gilead”** UMH 375

AN INVITATION TO HEALING & WHOLENESS

We come now to a time for blessing with the laying on of hands and/or anointing with oil. Those who desire this act of prayer will be invited to go to one of the prayer stations in

the sanctuary with a designated prayer person or prayer team. Others are asked to remain seated and continue in silent prayer.

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

Praise be to God.

We come seeking healing and hope.

Hear our prayer, O God.

We offer our prayers and songs to God.

Hear our prayer, O God.

In the silence of this moment, we name the healing or hope we seek...

(pause for silent prayer; you may share your prayers in Chat)

Be comforted, knowing suffering of any kind is not an absence of God. You are God's beloved, loved and held by God through all the trials of life.

O God of love, heal and comfort us.

SCRIPTURE James 5:13-14 (NIV)

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 each other. In these moments of worship, remind us of your presence, heal the wounds we carry - the illness in our bodies, the brokenness in our lives, the suffering in our world - revive us in the hope of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, that we may be renewed in body, mind and spirit, and that we may know your healing presence even when we feel your absence. Help us love what you love, ourselves and each other. Hear us now, as we lift these prayers to you...

(you may type your prayers in Chat or unmute yourself and share)

We pray for your presence and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Fill us with your healing power and grace-filled love.

We pray for courage in times of suffering.

Comfort us with your love

We pray for care-givers, family members and friends who stay with us.

Give us strength and patience.

We pray for the lonely and frightened.

Grant us comfort in the gentleness of your Spirit.

We pray for the world and ourselves.

Fill us with all hope that our living and our dying will be holy and healing.

Make us channels of your love. Amen

HYMN

“Spirit of the Living God”

UMH 393 (verse 1)

BLESSING FOR HEALING

(leader lifts a bowl of oil)

O God of peace and Lord of love, help us trust in the outpouring of yourself to us, so that through this oil and in the laying on of hands, your healing grace may calm our anxious hearts and heal us in body, mind and spirit.

Spirit of the living God, fill us with your love.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING WITH OIL

For this part of the service, stations may be set around the sanctuary or in front with kneelers or chairs for people to come forward. Others may remain to lay hands on; one is designated with oil to make the sign of the cross on the forehead or hand. Designated servers are invited to come forward first, to anoint each other and help demonstrate the blessing. Background music may be played.

For our online service we anoint ourselves with the oil:

Leader: Through the laying on of hands and anointing with oil, may the love and mercy of God bless us and heal us in our suffering, and watch over us in our journey to wholeness, through the Holy Spirit.

HYMN **“Spirit of the Living God”** UMH 393 (verse 2, not in UMH)

PRAYER AFTER ANOINTING

Be with us, Holy Spirit.

Lori: Nothing can separate us from your love.

Breathe on us, breath of God.

Fill us with your mercy and love.

Pray with us, Spirit of God.

Bring comfort, healing and peace.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

Spirit of the living God, meet us here today.

Touch us, hold us, heal us, mold us.

Spirit of the living God, fill us with your love.

CLOSING PRAYER

Eternal God, comforter and healer of the broken, we thank you that you have met us in our need.

Grant that we, who are being made whole, may be renewed with all hope and peace, in the power of your Spirit.

Your kingdom come, O Lord.

Your will be done.

Amen.

POSTLUDE **Precious Lord, Take My Hand** **UMH 474**

Sources:

A Wee Worship Book, Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 1999.

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

Services of Healing, UMC Book of Worship.