

WILD GOOSE WORSHIP GROUP

A Wee Worship Book

Fourth incarnation

Liturgy for a service of healing

It is envisaged that this liturgy will not happen in isolation. People should never be confronted with a service of healing simply because someone in authority thinks it would be a good or a novel thing. Where people have never been introduced to the Church's ministry of healing, time should be taken for preparation and discussion.

This liturgy is not intended for services in which the charismatic gifts of a few individuals will be shared, but where the Church in all its frailty obeys Christ's will and command that hands should be laid on those who suffer, and prayer made for them.

There should be a clearly designated area where people may kneel and hands be laid upon them both by the Leader(s) of worship and others standing behind. This may be at communion rails around the altar, or it may be at kneelers in a circle round a cross and some candles. Alternatively, in a small group, people may prefer to have a vacant chair on which they may sit.

If candles are to be lit in association with the prayers, that should happen at a safe distance from where people gather to lay on hands.

Opening responses (ALL standing)

Leader: O God, who created the heavens
and stretched them out,
ALL: WE PRAISE YOU!
Leader: You fashioned the earth and all that lives there,
ALL: WE PRAISE YOU!
Leader: You give breath to the people upon it,
and Spirit to those who walk on it.
ALL: WE PRAISE AND THANK YOU, O GOD!
Leader: That the eyes of the blind be opened,
the broken-hearted be healed,
the poor hear the good news,
the captives be brought out of darkness,
ALL: YOUR KINGDOM COME, O LORD.
YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Leader: So shall we sing a new song, O Lord,
ALL: AND PRAISE YOUR NAME FOR EVER.

Song or hymn

Prayer (ALL sit)

Leader: Let us pray.

As if it were not enough
to bring sound from silence,
light from darkness,
order from confusion;
as if it were not enough
to make the world excellent and intricate,
you gave the kiss of life to the dust of the earth.
You made male and female,
me and us.

ALL: SO WE BLESS YOU.

Leader: As if it were not enough
to watch the world you had created,
to admire your handwork from eternity;
as if it were not enough
to care and be kind at a distance,
you sent your Son to be flesh of our flesh,
bone of our bone,
to live and walk beside
me and us.

ALL: SO WE BLESS YOU.

Leader: As if it were not enough
to be looked at and listened to,
criticised and complimented,
feted and forsaken,
you stretched out your arm and held out your hand
to heal and to help
me and us.

ALL: SO WE BLESS YOU.

Leader: As if it were not enough
to do all this and return, triumphant, to glory,

ALL: you still hear our cries in the courts of high heaven,
and promise your Spirit for the healing of the nations
and for me and for us.
SO WE BLESS YOU,
GOD OF ALL POWER,
LORD OF OUR WEAKNESS,
SPIRIT OF OUR SALVATION.
AMEN.

Word of God

*(A scripture reading depicting an aspect of God's love or
Christ's healing ministry is read or enacted, at the
conclusion of which the rubric is shared)*

Leader: This is the Word/Gospel of the/our Lord.
ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Reflection or testimony

*(Someone may offer a short reflection on the above
reading or give some brief personal testimony to God's
healing in his/her experience)*

Prayers for healing

*(If the Leader has previously gathered and categorised
names for intercession these may be read by one or two
others. Otherwise, those present may name aloud
people who are brought to mind during the prayer)*

Leader: O Christ our Lord,
as in times past,
not all the sick and suffering
found their way to your side,
but had to have their hands taken,
or their bodies carried,
or their names mentioned.
So we, confident of your goodness,
bring others to you.

As in times past,
you looked at the faith of friends
and let peace and healing be known.
Look on our faith,
even our little faith

ALL: AND LET YOUR KINGDOM COME.

Leader: We name before you
those for whom pain is the greatest problem;
who are remembered more for their distress
than their potential;
who at night cry, 'I wish to God it were morning,'
and in the morning cry, 'I wish to God it were night.'

(Here, names may be said aloud, after which the spoken response may be used or substituted by the chant GOD TO ENFOLD YOU – see Appendix, page 118)

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, Lover of all,
ALL: BRING HEALING, BRING PEACE.

Leader: We name before you
those whose problem is psychological;
those haunted by the nightmares of their past
or the spectres of their future;
those whose minds are shackled
to neuroses, depression or fears,
who do not know what is wrong
or what to pray.

(Names may be mentioned aloud followed by spoken or sung response as above)

Leader: We name before you
those in whose experience
light has turned to darkness,
as the end of a life
or the breaking of a relationship
leaves them stunned in their souls
and silent in their conversation,
not knowing where to turn
or whom to turn to
or whether life has a purpose any more.

(Names may be mentioned aloud followed by spoken or sung response as above)

Leader: And others whose troubles we do not know
or whose names we would not say aloud,
we mention now in the silence
which you understand.

(A silence, followed by spoken or sung response as above)

Leader: Lord God,
you alone are skilled to know the cure
for every sickness and every soul.
If, by our lives, your grace may be known
then in us, through us,
and, if need be, despite us,
ALL: LET YOUR KINGDOM COME.

Leader: On all who tend the sick,
counsel the distressed,
sit with the dying,
or advance medical research
we ask your blessing,
that in caring for your people
they may meet and serve their Lord.

For those who, in this land,
administer the agencies of health and welfare,
we ask your guidance that in all they do
human worth may be valued,
and the service of human need be fully resourced.

ALL: This we ask in the name of him
whose flesh and blood
have made all God's children special.
AMEN.

(If people wish, a chant may be sung here and those who so desire may light a candle in a designated area, remembering the person or persons for whom they have prayed)

Invitation

Leader: During the next song,
those who wish to receive the laying on of hands
should come forward at the last verse
and kneel (or sit) at the appropriate place.

When hands have been laid
and prayer said,
the kneelers (or chair) should be left vacant
for others who want to follow.

Song or hymn

*(During the final verse people move forward and kneel
or sit as appropriate)*

Prayer

Leader: Look, Lord, on your children,
who love your name and need your care.
Let your hands be known
in the touch of friends.

ALL: LORD, SAY THE WORD
AND WE SHALL BE HEALED.

The laying on of hands

*(In turn, hands are laid on those who kneel or sit and
this or a similar prayer is said by the Leader or by all)*

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD,
PRESENT WITH US NOW,
ENTER YOU, BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT,
AND HEAL YOU OF ALL THAT HARMS YOU.
IN JESUS' NAME.
AMEN.

*(After all who require THE LAYING ON OF HANDS
have received this ministry, the following prayer of St
Augustine is said)*

Prayer

Leader: Watch now, dear Lord,
with those who wake
or watch
or weep tonight,
and give your angels charge
over those who sleep.

Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ,
rest your weary ones,
bless your dying ones,
soothe your suffering ones,
pity your afflicted ones,
shield your joyous ones,
and all for your love's sake.

Now may the God of hope fill us
with all joy and peace in believing,
that we may abound in hope
in the power of the Holy Spirit.
AMEN.

ALL:

Song or hymn

(During which all resume their seats)

The Grace

ALL: THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
THE LOVE OF GOD,
AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
BE WITH US ALL,
EVERMORE.
AMEN.