

## **Service of Prayers for Healing #2 – Iona Community Worship Book 2019**

*This service of prayers for healing reflects our belief that God's purpose for us all is a life of wholeness, as expressed in the life and teaching of Jesus.*

*We each stand in need of healing, but in this ministry we recognize also the social dimension. The healing of divided communities and nations, and the healing of the earth itself, have their place alongside the healing of broken bodies, hurt minds and wounded hearts, and of the hurts and divisions within ourselves. Our prayers are complementary to the work of medicine and other forms of healing, which are also channels of God's loving and transforming purpose.*

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Jesus says, 'Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened.' **Amen.**

Jesus says, 'Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden. I will give you rest. **Amen.**

Jesus says, 'Heal the sick.' 'Feed the hungry.' 'Free the oppressed.' 'Watch and pray.' **Amen.**

Eternal God, we praise you as centuries of people have done. We are not alone. Saints and angels, invisible, yet in splendour, surround us. Jesus, the healer, is with us.

Your Holy Spirit leads us to yearn for our own completeness, for the well-being of others, and for a better life.

Fill us with the expectation of goodness, and should any here feel burdened by guilt or inadequacy, let the grace of Jesus be made real in all its liberating power.

Here let your word come alive in our hearing; here let our concern respond to your compassion. Here let hope lead a path through heaviness; here may your kingdom come. **Amen.**

## Scripture Reading

(*After it is read*): For the word of God in Scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us, thanks be to God.

## Prayers for Others:

From deep within our being, we call upon you, God, for through you all can be made whole. Hear us as we raise to heaven our concerns for the people of earth.

We pray for those who long for the healing that human hands alone cannot offer. We pray for those who suffer mental anguish, who worry, feel anxiety, or fear the future.

We pray for those who mourn, who grieve the loss of love or of a loved one, and for those who know within themselves, or see in others, a loss of ability or agility, a loss of choice or independence, or a dimming of the light.

We pray for those who are near death, or who fear death, and for those who have made the last journey from life to greater life.

And we pray for communities in which people deal with disaster or terror, hunger or poverty, not knowing how or when their difficulties will end.

[*Our own prayers are added aloud, saying "Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."*]

In silence we remember those who are victimized because of their race, background or history, because of their gender or sexuality, because they are different; and for all who are abused, abandoned or degraded....(*shared silence*)

And remembering others in our minds, whose deepest needs may be known to God alone, we commend them to the affirming and restoring grace of God....(*shared silence*)

Loving Jesus, your hands are strong to hold and heal, to wipe away tears and protect in danger. So, hear our prayers. Protect all those who care for our safety and bless all those who continue your holy work of healing in clinics, hospitals, hospices, in counselling rooms and around kitchen tables. We ask these things for the good of your world and in your strong name. Amen.

A Prayer of Healing for Ourselves (said together):

**Spirit of the living God, present with us now, enfold us, body, mind and spirit, and heal us of all that harms us, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

May the mind of God, ever wiser than our minds, search us deeply and open us to the truths that make for our healing.

May the ears of God, ever open to our prayers, listen for us deeply and hear, beneath our words, our honest yearnings.

May the heart of God, ever filled with costly love, cherish us deeply, mending any brokenness and affirming our worth.

**May God keep us company and bring us joy. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

To God be the glory, to the saints and angels be honour, to those who would work evil be confusion.

To the cross be reverence; to the Church, discernment; to the departed, new life; to the penitent, acceptance; to the suffering, timely healing.

To the four corners of the world be peace, and on us may the compassion of God come, to bless us and overshadow us continually. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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