

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN IRELAND

**AN
ORDER
OF
SERVICE
FOR
HEALING
AND
WHOLENESS**

**MINISTRY OF HEALING
COMMITTEE**

2011

Healing was central to the ministry of Jesus. It was a sign of God's kingdom, bringing renewal and wholeness of life to those who turned to God in their need. Jesus sent out his disciples with the commission to 'proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal' (Luke 9:2).

In every act of worship, the Church celebrates the grace of God who desires wholeness of body, mind and spirit for all people. At a service of healing, we focus on that aspect of God's character. We bring to God our own frailty and brokenness - felt not just in physical illness, but in guilt, anxiety and all the burdens which weigh us down. We also bring our concerns for others and for the world. Above all, we come to the God who knows our needs before we ask, and whose love revealed in Jesus Christ is stronger than suffering and death.

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus'. (Philippians 4: 6-7)

This liturgy is offered as just one resource. We commend, as an additional resource, the order included in *The Methodist Worship Book* where the Healing Ministry is set in the context of a Service of Holy Communion.

briefly about the prayer need to the ministry team. If prayer stations are used it is important that they be visible to others in the church.

- Care should be taken to ensure that counselling does not develop during such periods of ministry.
- The ministry may be offered through the laying on of hands on either the head or the shoulder. Anointing with oil on the forehead may also be used. Both have scriptural warrant as vehicles for the transmission of grace. However, personal ministry need not necessarily involve touch and persons should be asked if they feel comfortable with the action of having hands laid upon them.

Where the ministry is offered in hospital or nursing home it is important that prior arrangements are made with those in charge and sensitivity exercised in respect of other patients or residents who may be sharing the ward or room. It is highly desirable that at least two persons exercise the ministry and that they have the prayer support of the society/congregation to which they belong.

Wherever the ministry is exercised it is of the utmost importance that appropriate safeguards are in place to ensure the welfare of both intercessors and those seeking ministry. Any information shared in the ministry time should be regarded as confidential except in cases that may involve the abuse of children or vulnerable adults where disclosure is a legal requirement.

There are distinct advantages in having two persons, one male and one female, ministering to each person seeking help.

The prayer teams should meet for prayer before and after each ministry session.

Order of Service for Healing and Wholeness

GUIDANCE (Please read notes on pages 7 & 8)

The following sentence may be said:

Jesus said: 'I have come that you may have life, and may have it in all its fullness.'

HYMN

Almighty God our heavenly Father,
you have blessed us with the gift of life
and placed us in a world of beauty and wonder.
Your perfect will for us is wholeness in body,
mind and spirit.
We bow in awe and wonder at your feet
and freely acknowledge our dependence upon you
for all that is good.

Silence

In your presence we remember our sin and failure,
all that damages our lives, the lives of others
and the world which you have created.

Silence

in penitence we ask You to forgive us,
in the name of our Lord Jesus
who loves us and gave Himself for us.

Silence

Jesus said: 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We say together the prayer that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

HYMN

READINGS FROM THE BIBLE

SERMON

HYMN

PRAYERS FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS, THE
CHURCH AND INDIVIDUALS

These, or some other prayers may be used

Heavenly Father, we pray for the whole of the human family,
your children, our brothers and sisters throughout the world;
for the nations of the world and their leaders;
and all who have authority and influence;
that there may be peace, freedom and justice among all
peoples everywhere.

GUIDANCE

Ideally the healing ministry is best offered within the context of the normal worship and pastoral life of each congregation. That may be within Services of Worship on Sunday, by prayer teams before and/or after services, in weeknight meetings or in hospitals, nursing homes or private homes. There remains a useful place for special services of healing. How the ministry is exercised in a local setting must be a matter for the individual circuit/society and church council.

If the ministry is being offered during public worship the person leading the service must ensure that clear information and directions are given in order to avoid discomfort or embarrassment either to those seeking personal ministry or the congregation generally.

In the public worship setting the ministry of healing may be exercised in a number of ways not necessarily mutually exclusive:

- Names may be placed in a prayer box or book and thus transmitted to the intercessor/ministry team prior to the prayer time. Prayer is then offered seeking God's blessing and healing on those whose names have been submitted.
- If persons are to be prayed for by name this should usually only be done at the persons' request or with their permission.
- Where members of the congregation are to be asked to mention the first name of persons for whom prayer is requested, the minister or leader should make it clear that they should only do so if the persons concerned have agreed to be named.
- An opportunity may be given for individuals to seek personal or proxy ministry either at the communion rail or at a designated prayer station in the church building. In this circumstance those seeking ministry should be encouraged, if they so wish, to speak

Go in peace
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect his glory.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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Lord, in your mercy -
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all Christian people;
for peace in your Church; for the healing of divisions;
that in faith and unity we may be constantly renewed by your
Holy Spirit for mission and service.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who suffer;
for the victims of war and violence;
of persecution and aggression;
of disaster and accident;
we pray for the homeless and the hungry;
for refugees and asylum-seekers;
for the destitute and the oppressed;
for the lonely and unloved; and for those who mourn;
that they may find strength and hope.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick in our community,
those in hospital or at home,
for those whose minds are beset with anxiety and fear,
for those oppressed or broken in spirit;
for those who turn to us for healing and comfort
that, together in you, we may find wholeness and peace.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for those people whose names have been brought to us and for those whose names are mentioned now –

Names of those whose permission has been obtained may be mentioned

Lord Jesus, embrace them in your loving grace and healing power.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for one another and for ourselves ,
that we may be instruments of your peace and joy.
May we know for ourselves, and mediate to others,
Your wholeness, healing and salvation.

Lord, in your mercy -
Hear our prayer.

Gracious Father, we ask these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, the Healer, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen**

PERSONAL OR PROXY MINISTRY

This ministry may include the LAYING ON OF HANDS and/or ANOINTING WITH OIL.

*If Anointing is to be offered the following prayer should be said.
Appropriate music may be played during this ministry*

Heavenly Father, giver of life and salvation,
bless this oil for the healing of the sick.
May those who receive this ministry
be made whole by the power of the Holy Spirit;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

This, or extempore prayer, may be offered with each person who seeks ministry

Father,
send your Spirit of life and health on your servant, *N*;
in the Name of Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you, gracious God.
You have loved us from the beginning of time
and remembered us when we were in trouble.
Your mercy endures for ever.

We thank you, redeeming God.
You have come to us in Jesus Christ,
who heals us and saves us from sin.
Your mercy endures for ever.

We thank you, holy God.
You have sent us your Spirit,
to comfort us and lead us into all truth.
Your mercy endures for ever.

Gracious, redeeming and holy God,
glory and praise be yours, now and for ever.
Amen.

HYMN

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord look on you with kindness
and give you peace. **Amen.**