

Commissioning of Ministers of Healing

Presentation

Versicles and Responses

V/ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.

R/ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed; I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak.

V/ Come to me, said Jesus, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

R/ 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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

A Reading

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. —*James 5:13-16*

Commissioning Prayer & Declaration

Compassionate God, you long for our healing, and through the Holy Spirit you are present to our wounds in the friendship of Christ Jesus: Be with these your servants whom you have called to be ministers of your your healing presence. Work through them, we pray, that wholeness may overcome illness, that love may cast out hatred, and that community may overwhelm alienation. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the good shepherd of the sheep. *Amen*

Commission

In the name of God and of this congregation, I commission you as Ministers of Healing.

The Peace follows

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The Healing Ministers commissioned today include Coordinator Danny Velez, Esther Scantlebury, Tony Coleman, Judy Bibbins, Funmi Johnson and Daphne Noyes, joined by the clergy Ellie and Titus. A retreat for this group was held on 18 Nov. The ministry takes place on first and third Sundays during communion at the Sacrament Altar, with a possibility of expanding to every Sunday. A midweek healing eucharist will be offered on Wednesday, 10 Jan., at 6 pm.

The laying on of hands with prayers for healing is an ancient Christian practice by which we help one another to be open to God's healing, whether for ourselves or for others dear to us. It can be hard to pray in adversity, and we are strengthened when another prays for us. The laying on of hands incarnates our care for one another and focuses our call for the Holy Spirit's coming. All in this ministry understand that God is the one healer and that in this ministry we enter into the mystery of God's working, which can be neither predicted nor understood.

Scriptures used in the Versicles and Responses are: Ezekiel 34:15-16 and Matthew 11:28-30