

Sheffield United Reformed Churches
Team Ministry worship for individuals or family
Sunday 12th July 2020 at 10:30 am.

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Call to worship

We offer you all that we are this day for your holding. We offer you our celebration of wholeness and healing, knowing that in Jesus, you are a God who bears all things, offering us well-being of body, mind and spirit. Come Holy Spirit, come....

Opening Hymn

As we are gathered Jesus is here;
One with each other, Jesus is here.
Joined by the Spirit, washed in the blood,
Part of the body, the church of God.
As we are gathered Jesus is here,
One with each other, Jesus is here

Prayers of Approach and Confession

God of all creation we come in the name of Jesus. We come with our eyes filled with the beauty, we come in awe of the wonders in our world which you created. We come before you, just as we are, so in our weakness, hear us as we worship and praise your name - for all things come from you and we give ourselves to you.

We come before you, O God, with various measures of health and well-being, from many places, to this virtual place of worship. May this time of worship be a sweet smelling incense and a blessing to our hearts?

Healing and forgiving God, we come to say we are sorry for, the times we have failed to recognise you in those whom we meet. We confess to you the times we have walked away from those who need your healing presence.

We say we are sorry for the times we have hurt and failed others.
Forgive us, be gracious, be merciful and heal us,
In the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.



Psalm 86: 1-7

A heartfelt cry for grace, mercy and help

Luke 9: 1- 6

Jesus sends his disciples to proclaim the Kingdom and heal the sick

Reflection.

Jesus sent out His disciples with the instructions 'to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick' (Luke 9, v2), He later sent out another 72 with the same instructions (Luke 10, v9). This morning we would like to invite you to a time of prayer for healing. At this moment it cannot be denied that many are in real need of healing, of sickness, of grief, of uncertainty.

Our nation, indeed, our world is battling with a virus the like of which has never been seen, and they do not want to hear just words they want to see something practical

being done. Too often we say the words and yet do not give time for the action. We would like us to put that right this morning and we invite you to join in a time of healing prayer. We believe that it is Jesus will that His church engage in offering healing as part of their life in Him, a gift given by the Holy Spirit to build up the church and bring glory and honour to Jesus alone.

So, we invite you to join as the people of God as we seek God's healing. Use any music you can play to aid your thoughts and reflections as you feel best for you. So let us still our hearts in God's loving presence...

Let us begin by remembering the presence of Christ. Remember Jesus said 'where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them' (Matt 18, v20). We have come together in His name this morning, but if you feel on your own Jesus is still with you for we have His promise 'I will be with you always, to the end of the age' (Matt 28, v20)

So, there you are, you and Jesus, let this picture fill you and imagine yourself in Jesus presence. He has not changed, 'He is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.' (Hebrews 13, v8). This the same Jesus who 'went about preaching the Good News about the Kingdom, and healing people who had all kinds of disease and sickness' (Matt 4, v23). This is Jesus who said to his disciples 'my own peace I give to you' (John 14, v27), and who greeted these same disciples on Easter Day with the words 'Peace be with you (John 20, v21).

There is a common error concerning the peace of God. We tend to think it is something rather precarious that we must struggle to hold or else it will slip away, whereas the Bible image is the very opposite, 'God's peace will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus' (Philippians 4v7). So do strive or resist but come into that ring of peace which is God's will for you. Remember we do not keep the Peace of God the Peace of God keeps us. Just rest in the knowledge that it is so.

The peace of God is not a weak or passive concept, neither is it the absence of turmoil. It is strong and active and vibrant with life. It must be so for it an attribute of God himself, how often do we hear God described as 'The God of Peace'? The peace of God is one with the power of God, and the love of God and the Joy of God. To rest in the ring of peace is to rest in God's power, love, and joy. It is a place of creativity and a place of healing.

So just be. Acknowledge the peace of God, enjoy His peace. Let this strong, lifegiving peace flow round you, into you. Remember Jesus as he healed the sick and know that sin, tension, and sickness must retreat before the peace He offers.

Bring others into this ring of peace, picture your family and close friends, lift each one by name before God. Remember any you know who are ill or in trouble, do not concentrate on the illness or the trouble but remember the person for whom God's will is wholeness. Picture those for whom you pray within this active ring of peace and let God's own peace do God's work.

Bring into this ring of peace all who are worshipping with you right now and all they have brought through prayer. Give thanks to God for one another and for Jesus in our midst.

We lift those for whom we have been asked to pray asking that our prayers be aligned with God's holy and healing will.

Prayer

O God of healing and wholeness, we bring before you the leaders of our world in need, and ask that they would have the discernment to listen to each other and to you, that there may be justice and peace.

We bring to you the leaders of the Church and other religious organisations and communities, and ask that they would have the discernment to listen to each other and to you, that there may be vision and unity.

We bring to you those in government, those who direct our health care – doctors, nurses, administrators, ancillary workers and more – and pray that they may be strengthened and encouraged by encountering you in their work.

We bring to you those with healing needs especially... (***name specific people on your mind and hearts here***) and pray that they will hear you and feel peace; that they will encounter you and feel healed; that they will know you and feel loved.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us extend our ring of peace further around our city, our country, our world, the whole universe known and unknown, That God's will may be done.

We offer these prayers with confidence knowing that that the will of the almighty and eternal God must triumph, His peace will prevail, His Kingdom will come – because He is God. The prayers we offer today are strong prayers, not weak prayers, we offer them not with anxiety but with calm expectation.

Closing Hymn (Mission Praise 226)

Healing God, Almighty Father, active throughout history
Ever saving, guiding, working for your children to be free
Shepherd King, inspiring prophets to foresee your suffering role
Lord we raise our prayers and voices - make us one and make us whole!

Healing Christ, God's word incarnate, reconciling all to each
God's redemptive plan, atoning, bringing all within his reach
Jesus, Saviour, Healer Victor drawing out for us death's sting
Lord we bow our hearts in worship and united praises bring

Healing Spirit, Christ-anointing, raising to new life in Him
Help the poor, release to captives, cure of body, health within
Life renewing and empowering, Christ-like service to the lost
Lord we pray, renew your wonders, as of a new Pentecost

Healing Church, called out and chosen to enlarge God's Kingdom here
Lord obeying, Spirit-strengthened to bring God's salvation near
For creation's reconciling, gifts of us love in us release
Father, Son and Holy Spirit: make us instruments of peace

Blessing

In the name of Christ go in peace and serve the Lord. May the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen