

BLESSING OF HANDS

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this holy day we have been blessed through the healing power of Christ by way of anointing with oil and the laying on of hands. The Gospel repeatedly describes Jesus as touching people with the laying hands-on people in acts of healing or for blessing. The apostles followed Jesus' example. They preached in Christ's name and practiced the laying on of hands as a means of communicating the power of the Resurrected Savior and the power of the promised Holy Spirit. Look now, at your own hands, maybe more closely, more intimately than ever before. Look at your palms, each finger and thumb, the backs of your hands. And in the quiet of this moment, bring to mind all the things your hands have done in your life...for you, your family, your friends, total strangers. Your hands have fed you and perhaps your children or those who were infirmed. They have allowed you to dress yourself and perhaps others as well. They make it possible to work or open a door or write down a thought or a poem, to make music. These hands, your hands, no matter what they look like, no matter how beautiful or unattractive you think they might be...your hands are sacred because they complete a kind of connection between you and God in prayer, you and yourself, you and those you love, you and the world. As you consider the wonder of your hands, I offer this blessing... May your hands be blessed. May they be both gentle and strong. May they be filled with courage, respect and understanding. May your hands be a connection to the heart and may they always serve in compassion and kindness. And now, raise your hands in a position of blessing as we go forth with a blessing from Psalm 90:17 and Numbers 6:24-26:

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us.
Congregation: **May God establish the work of our hands.**
All people: *Yes! Establish the work of our hands.*
Pastor: May God bless you and keep you.
Congregation: **We go forth into a broken and hurting world with the blessing of God, the Father.**
Pastor: May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
Congregation: **We go forth with the healing authority of the Son, Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit.**
Pastor: May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.
Congregation: **We go forth, taking healing with us, wherever we go!**
All people: *Amen.*

POSTLUDE

GOD'S LIGHT IS CARRIED INTO THE WORLD

February 2, 2025
Healing Service & Blessing of Hands

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GOD'S LIGHT IS CARRIED INTO THE SANCTUARY

(All who are able to do so comfortably, please stand)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on James 5:14-16a)

Pastor: Are any among you sick?
Congregation: **They should call the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.**
Pastor: The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.
Congregation: **Therefore, let us confess our sins to God and one another. Let us pray for one another, so that we may be healed and made whole.**
Pastor: To bear one another's burdens in prayer is a holy privilege. It also demands a willingness to be a channel for God's power. Therefore, in silence, let us first, offer our personal confessions to God that we may be cleansed of anything that might hinder our efforts as intercessors. In confessing, let us name those sins which separate and divide: sins of pride and resentment; sins of hatred, bitterness, and jealousy. Let us name also our connection with humanity's sins: sins of poverty, war, hunger, injustice, neglect, and discrimination.

TIME OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

All people: *Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are sorry and now turn away from our sin before you. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us that we may obey your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your name. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Brothers and sisters, I announce with joy that we are forgiven!
Congregation: **Thanks be to God. Amen and amen.**

RESPONSE OF PRAISE*Amen***Blue Hymnal, #312***(The congregation may be seated as the youth come forward)***JESUS SAID, “LET THE CHILDREN COME”****HYMN***Healer of our Every Ill***Blue Hymnal, #506****EPISTLE READINGS****1 Corinthians 12:12-31a and 2 Corinthians 1:3-5****GOSPEL READING****Luke 4:14-21****SERMON****Rev. Laura C. Baker****PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER**

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM*The Heavens Declare the Glory***Chancel Choir****OFFERING INVITATION** (Based on Psalm 54:4-7)

Liturgist: The psalmist said:

All people: Behold, God is my helper; God is the upholder of my life. With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O God, for it is good. For you have delivered me from every trouble.

Liturgist: With joy and gratitude, let us dedicate our tithes and offerings with a song and prayer.

*(All who are able to do so comfortably, please stand)***DOXOLOGY***Accept, O God, the Gifts We Bring***Blue Hymnal, #379****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All people: God of all people and God of all places, we present these humble gifts as signs of your goodness and mercy. With them, we offer our varied ministries, that each of us may be a part of your answer to the cries of the world. Amen.

HYMN*I Need Thee, Every Hour***Blue Hymnal, #578***(The congregation may be seated)***ORDER FOR ANOINTING AND THE LAYING ON OF HANDS****THANKSGIVING OVER THE OIL**

Pastor:

O God, our Redeemer, giver of health and salvation, we give you thanks for the gift of oil. As the apostles anointed many who were sick and you healed them, so may your Holy Spirit come on us and, on this oil, that those who receive this anointing in repentance and faith may be made well in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

*All people:**Amen.***INVITATION TO ANOINTING AND LAYING ON OF HANDS**

Pastor:

Those who desire to be anointed and to have hands laid on them for healing may come forward. If you prefer that the pastor and an elder come to you, raise your hand or ask a neighbor to identify your need to us. You may come for yourself, or you may come as a channel of God’s healing power for someone else. During the anointing and laying on of hands, we invite all present to make silent prayers for each who is seeking God’s healing. When you come forward you may choose to remain standing or kneel at the prayer bench.

ACT OF ANOINTING AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

Pastor:

Name, I anoint you with oil and lay hands on you in the name of Jesus, the Christ, your Savior and Healer (for specific needs).

Elder:

May the power of God’s indwelling presence heal you of all illnesses – in your body, mind, spirit, and relationships.

Elder:

In peace and with trust in your ongoing journey of healing and wholeness, may you go forth to serve God and others with a loving and faithful heart.

*(All who are able to do so comfortably, please stand)***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING***All people:*

Living God, we give you thanks that through this anointing, we your people may have comfort in our suffering. Where there is fear, we thank you for courage; where there is affliction, we give your thanks for patience; when we are dejected, we give thanks for hope; and when we feel alone, we praise you for the assurance of your Presence. In the name of our Savior, Jesus the Christ, the Anointed One. Amen.

HYMN*He Touched Me***Blue Hymnal, #564**