

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
A Healing Service

January 29, 2023



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Yarmouth, Maine

Throughout scripture, we read stories of healing and restoration. From Genesis to Revelation, individuals with afflictions of body, mind, and spirit and communities torn apart by greed and hatred are healed by prayer or, in one instance, by Jesus' spit and a little bit of mud (John 9:6). The ministry of healing is one of the oldest offerings of our Judeo-Christian faith and one of the most essential.

In church settings, when we hear the word "healing" we may think of the miracles of Jesus, whereby a touch or a word Jesus was able to renew sight to the blind, agility to the lame, and life to the dead. Certainly, there are times when we all pray for miracles – for God to drastically intervene and make whole or make well a loved one.

Most often, however, "healing" is not just one experience of becoming well after being sick. It is a myriad of experiences of wholeness and being held, known, and loved just as we are. It is a sense of being buoyed when the waters of life are rough. It's a deep sense of embodiment when life is swirling around us. It's a cry for justice in a world still so deeply oppressed. It's knowing we do not journey through life alone but with God and God's people by our side.

St. Bart's Healing Services are times when we center this ministry of our tradition and make space for all of these aspirations for healing. Our prayers, our songs, our silence turn our attention to our healing as individuals and as a community. Lighting candles – the flames of hope, endurance, love, and peace – and anointing – oils that bless the living and those close to death – are centuries-old practices that connect us to God's healing ministry in our midst.

We invite you, this morning, into this space of healing – for you, for those you love, and for our community.

Prelude "Ricercare in C" by J Pachelbel

Welcome & Announcements

Laurie Hyndman

Hymn, #593 Lord make us servants

The Hymnal 1982

Greeting & Prayer

Presider The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Word

First Lesson: Micah 6:1-8

Pam Hobson

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

"With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?"

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Lector The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: Psalm 15

John Perkins

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the Lord.

5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.

6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Paule French

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Lector The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn, #656 Blest are the pure in heart

The Hymnal 1982

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

Deacon The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, O God.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Deacon The Gospel of our Lord.
People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Hymn

“Lord, we come to ask your healing”

*1 Lord, we come to ask your healing, teach us of love;
all unspoken shame revealing, teach us of love.
Take our selfish thoughts and actions, petty feuds, divisive factions,
hear us now to you appealing, teach us of love.*

*2 Soothe away our pain and sorrow, hold us in love;
grace we cannot buy or borrow, hold us in love.
Though we see but dark and danger, though we spurn both friend and stranger,
though we often dread tomorrow, hold us in love.*

*3 Help us live for one another, bind us in love;
stranger, neighbor, father, mother-- bind us in love.
All are equal at your table, through your spirit make us able
to embrace as sister, brother, bind us in love.*

Healing Liturgy

Presider The worship on the 5th Sundays in our calendar year are set apart as focused on the theme of healing. As we move into prayers for the healing of our loved ones, our world and ourselves, let us take a moment to collect our thoughts and prayers.

Silence

A Litany of Healing

Imelda Schaefer

Leader God the Parent, your will for all people is health and salvation;
People **We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**
Leader God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;
People **We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**
Leader God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;
People **We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**
Leader Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;
People **We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Leader Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or in need, that they may be made whole; Christ, our healer,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence; Christ, our healer,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit; Christ. our healer,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; Christ,our healer,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We remember those who have called upon us for prayer:

People **Bobby; Charles; Kellan; Pat; Marcella; Tim; Sam; Matthew; Antonia; Al; Alex;**
(on the left) **Virginia & Jamil; Ed; Hannah; Mike; David; Sarah; Jenny & Matt; Adam; Rich, Nancy & Jonathan; Joan L & Elizabeth; Perry; Jim; Matt & Shannon; Elaine;**

People **Sasha; Katie; Paige; Dale; Dave K & family; Anne, Richard & family; Courtney;**
(on the right) **Dianne; Diane; Karl; Sudon, Aunt Niki; Brook; the Shank family; Beth and Brian; Erin's children Logan, Ethan, and Katherine, and her sister Megan, Jon and family.**

Leader Friends, are there others we wish to commend to God at this time? Please offer your prayers, either silently or aloud... *Pause for offered prayers*

Leader Christ, our healer,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved. We pray for those in our community who have recently died, **Scott Shank, husband of Judy Shank, and Erin LaSalle.** I invite your prayers, either silently or aloud... *Pause for offered prayers*

Leader Christ, our healer,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for our fragile earth, that we may be good stewards of your creation: Christ, our healer,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We light our orange candle in remembrance of victims of gun violence.

May this candle, and all the lives it represents, burn brighter than our nation's idolatry of guns and inspire us to pursue meaningful change in our gun laws.
Christ, our healer,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader You are the Lord who does wonders:
People **You have declared your power among the peoples.**

Leader With you, O Lord, is the well of life:
People **And in your light we see light.**

Leader Hear us, O Lord of life:
People **Heal us, and make us whole.**

Presider: At this time, we will bless prayer shawls that have been prepared by our St. Bart's knitters and which will be given to members of our community who would like to be wrapped in prayer.

We invite the congregation to say the following Prayer of Blessing together:

People **May God's grace be upon this shawl...
warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing.
May this mantle be a safe haven...
a sacred place of security and well-being...
sustaining and embracing
in good times as well as difficult ones.**

**May the one who receives this shawl
be cradled in hope, kept in joy,
graced with peace,
and wrapped in love.**

After the above prayer is said, the shawls will be placed on the table. As you come forward to light a candle, you are invited to add your own blessing to the shawls through touch or silent prayer.

Presider We, like Zaccheus, are known by God, called by name and restored by God's forgiving, gracious love. As we prepare to confess our sins, let us light a candle for our own healing.

At this time, the congregation is invited forward to light a candle as a symbol of the healing light of Christ illuminating our path forward. Those who wish prayer and anointing are welcome to receive this in the chapel located in the rear of the sanctuary at this time. Once everyone has returned to their seats, the service continues.

O Lord hear my pray'r, O Lord hear my pray'r.

When I call, an - swer me. O Lord hear my pray'r. O

Lord hear my pray'r, Come and lis - ten to me. O

Fine

Presider Let us pray

People: **Open us to your healing power, O God. We entrust ourselves to your care, knowing that you are doing for us and for all the world far better things than we can ask or imagine. With you as our companion and guide, strengthen us to hope for all that is good and to fear no evil. For your love is stronger than death, and your faithfulness reaches to the heavens. To you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and to the ages of ages. Amen**

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

Presider Most merciful God,
People **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,
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Presider Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
People **Amen.**

Presider Let us greet each other in the name of Christ:

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ is always with you.
People **And, also with you.**

The congregation is invited to greet one another in the name of Christ.

Offering

Presider: Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory Anthem "If Ye love Me" by Philip Wilby

*If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter,
that he may 'bide with you forever;
E'en the spirit of truth*

Offering Prayer

Presider Let us pray,
People **All things come of Thee, O God, and of Thine own have we given Thee.**

Deacon

“For Equilibrium” by John O’Donohue

Like the joy of the sea coming home to shore,
May the relief of laughter rinse through your soul.

As the wind loves to call things to dance,
May your gravity be lightened by grace.

Like the dignity of moonlight restoring the earth,
May your thoughts incline with reverence and respect.

As water takes whatever shape it is in,
So free may you be about who you become.

As silence smiles on the other side of what's said,
May your sense of irony bring perspective.

As time remains free of all that it frames,
May your mind stay clear of all its names.

May your prayer of listening deepen enough
to hear in the depths the laughter of God.

The Lord’s Prayer

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People

**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.**

Blessing

Presider May God the Holy Trinity make us strong in faith and love,
defend us on every side, and guide us in truth and peace; May we all be a source
of healing in the world and may Christ’s light lead the way.
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
one God, Mother of us all, be among us, and remain with us always.

People **Amen.**

Closing Hymn, #438 Tell out, my soul

The Hymnal 1982

Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve our God

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presider: The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

Music Director: Dr. Christina Edelen

Musicians: The St. Bart's Choir

Candles: John Perkins*

Prayer Leader: Imelda Schaefer*

Lectors: Pam Hobson*, Paule French*

Prayers in the Chapel: Susannah White*

Ushers: Jay Reighley, Basil Souder

Altar Guild: Linda Perkins, Jennifer Willard

Flower Arranger: Corey Walmer

A/V: Laurie Hyndman

Counters: Tom Hyndman, Pam Hobson

Snow Removal: Ben Redfield

VPOW: Laurie Hyndman

Coffee Hour: Peter Sillin & Anne Berg

*members of the St. Bart's Pastoral Care Team



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Yarmouth, ME *A Congregation of The Episcopal Diocese of Maine*

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Music Director:	Dr. Christina Edelen
Deacon:	The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
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