

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
A Healing Service

April 30, 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 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" *by Gilbert Martin*

Welcome & Announcements *Deborah Wathen Finn*

Hymn, #478 Jesus our mighty lord *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

Presider O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Word

First Lesson: Acts 2:42-47

Barbara Baryhdt

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

The Psalm: Psalm 23, Choral Anthem

by Bobby McFerrin

*The Lord is my Shepard, I have all I need,
She makes me lie down in green meadows,
Beside the still waters, She will lead.*

*She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,
She leads me in a path of good things,
And fills my heart with songs.*

*Even though I walk, through a dark & dreary land,
There is nothing that can shake me,
She has said She won't forsake me,
I'm in her hand.*

*She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes,
She anoints my head with oil,
And my cup overflows.*

*Surely, surely goodness & kindness will follow me,
All the days of my life,
And I will live in her house,
Forever, forever & ever.*

*Glory be to our Mother, & Daughter,
And to the Holy of Holies,
As it was in the beginning, is now & ever shall be,
World, without end. Amen*

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Paule French

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

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; Rich, Nancy & Jonathan; Perry; Jim; Matt & Shannon;**
People **Elaine; Sasha; Katie; Paige; Anne, Richard & family; Courtney; Dianne; Diane; (on the right) Karl; Sudon, Aunt Niki; Ron; Nathaniel; Boyd; Terry; Celeste; Will; Tom & Laurel; Caia; Jennifer; Jani & Lisa; Ramsey; and Alicita.**

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. 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.
God of Justice, help us, your church, find our voice. Empower us to change this
broken world and to protest the needless deaths caused by gun violence. Give us
power to rise above our fear that nothing can be done, and grant us the
conviction to advocate for change.
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 these shawls...**
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 these shawls
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 sheep, are known by Christ the Good Shepherd, 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. Once everyone has returned to their seats, the service continues.

Hymn, #830

Laudate omnes gentes

Wonder, Love and Praise

Lau - da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num. Lau -
E nā lā - hui - ka - na - ka ho - o - na - ni ika Haku! E

da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num! Lau -
nā lā - hui - ka - na - ka ho - o - na ni ika Haku! E *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 Shepherd 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.

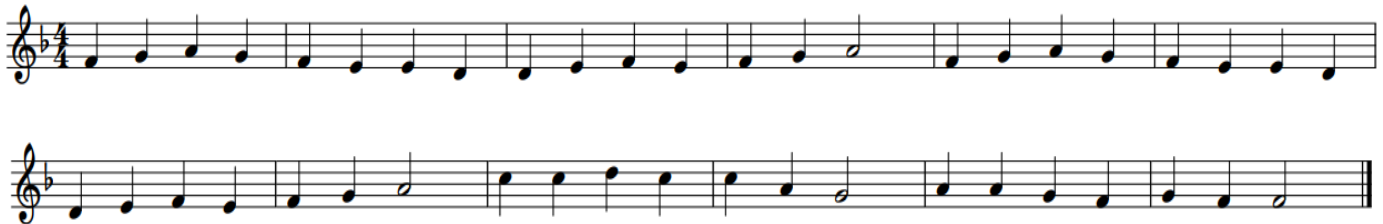
Offering

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

Offertory Hymn

“Pilgrims of Christ’s Church”

by John Woolvorton



1. Pilgrims of Christ's church we journey through the dark of world's long night;
Footsteps brightened by his glory, rays of hope make clear our sight.
Christ our Lord through every age, loud proclaim and sing his praise!

2. Children of the fiery pillar, chosen in the wilderness;
By the law of God defended in the midst of faithlessness.
Mighty word of God once spoken, Come and heal this remnant broken!

3. Pilgrims on the way of sorrow, lame and blind, no place abide;
To Jerusalem we follow, drawn by love to God's own side.
At the cross his mercy see; death hides not his majesty!

4. Pilgrims on the way victorious, God has called his own to life,
Fought and won the battle glorious: Jesus, Lord amid the strife.
Shout of joy our lips declare; Christ our strength new deeds to dare!

5. Pilgrims of Christ's church we journey through the dark of world's long night.
Footsteps brightened by his glory, rays of hope make clear our sight.
Soon he comes the earth to claim and the vict'ry of God's name!

Offering Prayer

Presider

Let us pray,

People

All things come of Thee, O God, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

Deacon

Blessing That Does Not End

by Jan Richardson

From the moment
It first laid eyes on you,
This blessing loved you.
This blessing knew you
From the start.
It cannot explain how.
It just knows that the first time
It sat down beside you,
It entered into a conversation
That had already been going on forever.
Believe this conversation
Has not stopped.
Believe this love still lives –
The love that crossed
An impossible distance
To reach you, to find you,
To take your face into its hands
And bless you.
Believe this does not end –
that gesture, once enacted,
Endures.
Believe this love goes on –
That it still takes your face
Into its hands,
That it presses its forehead to yours
As it speaks to you in undying words,
That it has never ceased
To gather your heart into its heart.
Believe its blessing abides.
Believe it goes with you always.
Believe it knows you still.

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 Christ, the Good Shepherd 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, #782

Gracious Spirit, give your servants

Wonder, Love, and Praise

1. Gra - cious Spir - it, give your ser - vants joy to set sin's
 2. Word made flesh, who gave up glo - ry to be - come our
 3. Lov - ing God, who birthed cre - a - tion from the noth - ing -
 4. Tri - une God, e - ter - nal Be - ing, nev - er end - ing,

cap - tives free, hope to heal the bro - ken - heart - ed,
 great high priest, tak - ing on our hu - man na - ture
 ness of space, kin - dling life where all was emp - ty,
 un - be - gun, bound - less grace and per - fect jus - tice,

peace to share love's li - ber - ty. Through us bring your balm of
 to re - deem the last and least: let your cour - age and com -
 turn - ing cha - os in - to grace: when we feel con - fused and
 right - eous and for - giv - ing One: so en - fold us in you

glad - ness to the wound - ed and op - pressed; help us claim and
 pas - sion shape and guide our min - is - tries; as our Sav - ior
 fruit - less, dawn up - on our rest - less night; give us faith's im -
 mer - cy that our wills and yours u - nite; through us may the

show God's fa - vor as a peo - ple called and blessed.
 and our Shep - herd, lead us to the truth that frees.
 ag - i - na - tion, hope's re - new - ing, love's de - light.
 world be - hold you, find your love, your truth, your light.

Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve our God
 Alleluia, Alleluia!

All **Thanks be to God!**
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

"Andante"

by F. Mendelssohn

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presider	The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
Music Director	Dr. Christina Edelen
Musicians	The St. Bart's Choir
Candles	John Perkins*
Lectors	Barbara Barhydt*, Paule French*
Prayers	Pam Hobson*
Ushers	Nick Desiderio, Tom Hyndman
Altar Guild	Jan Burson, Mary Louise Chin
Flower Arranger	Carla Hunt
A/V	Laurie Hyndman
Counters	Pam Hobson, Pamela Trudo
Lawn Care	David Heald
VPOW	Deborah Wathen Finn
Coffee Hour	Michele Johns & Jay Reighley

*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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Deacon:	The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
Intern:	Mary Curlew
Sr. Warden:	Michele Johns
Jr. Warden:	Laurie Hyndman
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