

# **Healing and Reconciliation Services**

**from the Methodist Worship Book**

**A SERVICE OF REPENTANCE AND RECONCILIATION**

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Many sources have contributed to the compilation of this book, and not all of them are now traceable. Individual members of the Committee prepared drafts, which were revised more or less drastically by the Committee, often resulting in final versions which looked little like the original drafts. Among the casualties of this sometimes protracted process was the identity of many of the sources; they could not be recalled, nor did there seem to be any way to track them down. The Panel wishes to record at once both its indebtedness to any who may recognise in this book rhythms and patterns, expressions and phrases, ideas and images which are their own, and its regret that it became impossible to ask permission or seek consent for their inclusion...

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## HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

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# A SERVICE OF REPENTANCE AND RECONCILIATION

## INTRODUCTION

The ministry of reconciliation is one of God's gifts to the Church. According to the Gospel of John, on the evening of Easter Day, Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained' (John 20:22-23). In response to this gift, the Church recognizes that an act of confession and declaration of forgiveness may be an important step towards reconciliation, spiritual growth and wholeness.

An act of repentance and reconciliation usually contains four elements: (i) we acknowledge our sins; (ii) we repent of sin and turn to God; (iii) we are assured of God's forgiveness; and (iv) we declare our intention to lead a new life.

## NOTES

- 1 The penitent person may find it helpful to prepare a written confession. After the declaration of forgiveness this must be burnt or otherwise destroyed.
  - 2 When guidance or counsel is given, it may include the recommendation of prayer, biblical or devotional reading, and other suitable acts.
  - 3 Proper confidentiality must be maintained in respect of all that is disclosed in the context of this service.
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1 The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**EITHER**

We say together the prayer  
that Jesus gave us:

**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.**

**OR**

As our Saviour taught his  
disciples, we pray:

**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  
trespasses,  
as we forgive those who  
trespass against us.  
And lead us not into  
temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

3 1 John 1:8-9

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

One of the following may also be read:

Deuteronomy 30:15-16, 19  
Psalm 32:3-5  
Psalm 51  
Psalm 103:8-14  
Jeremiah 31:31-34

Ezekiel 11:19-20  
Mark 1:14-15  
Luke 6:36-37  
Luke 15:8-10  
John 8:31b-32, 34-36  
Romans 5:8-9  
Colossians 1:12-14  
James 5:16  
1 Peter 1:18-21

## THE ACT OF REPENTANCE AND RECONCILIATION

4 May the Lord be in your heart and on your lips that you may truly and humbly confess your sins.

5 The penitent person says these or similar words:

I confess to almighty God,  
before you and all the company of heaven,  
that I have sinned through my own fault  
in what I have thought, said and done,  
and in what I have failed to do.  
In particular I confess . . .

These are the sins which I remember.  
I ask God's forgiveness for them and for all my sins.

6 Appropriate guidance or counsel may be given.

7 The penitent person says:

Gracious and merciful God,  
I am truly sorry and repent of all my sins.  
Forgive me all that is past,  
help me to amend what I am,  
and direct what I shall be,  
that I may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways,  
to the praise and glory of your name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- 8 The minister may place her/his hand on the penitent's head or trace the sign of the cross on the penitent's forehead, saying:

God, the Father of all mercies,  
through Jesus Christ his Son,  
forgives all who truly repent and believe in him.

By the ministry of reconciliation  
given by Christ to his Church,  
I declare that your sins are forgiven,  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

- 9 Go in peace,  
pray for me, a sinner,  
and remember the mercy of God. **Amen.**