Healing and Reconciliation Services

from the Methodist Worship Book

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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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HEALING AND RECONCILIATION SERVICES

AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR HEALING AND WHOLENESS

INTRODUCTION

Healing was central to the ministry of Jesus. It was a sign of God's kingdom, bringing renewal and wholeness of life to those who turned to God in their need. Jesus sent out his disciples with the commission to 'proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal' (Luke 9:2).

In every act of worship, the Church celebrates the grace of God who desires wholeness of body, mind and spirit for all people. At a service of healing, we focus on that aspect of God's character. We bring to God our own frailty and brokenness – felt not just in physical illness, but in guilt, anxiety, and all the burdens which weigh us down. We also bring our concerns for others and for the world. Above all, we come to the God who knows our needs before we ask, and whose love revealed in Jesus Christ is stronger than suffering and death.

The most appropriate setting for this service is *Holy Communion*, where the risen Christ is present in the sacrament to heal and renew our lives. The laying on of hands and/or anointing with oil together with prayer for others, as practised by the early Church, may also form part of the service.

NOTES

Before the service begins, guidance should be given about the arrangements for receiving the laying on of hands and/or anointing with oil.

- 2 If the service includes the laying on of hands, hands should be laid on the person's head. If the service includes anointing with oil, the oil should be applied to the forehead.
- 3 This service may also be used for a person at home or in hospital. Whenever possible, family, friends and representatives of the church should also be present.
- 4 The basic elements of the service are marked by the symbol *. Other sections may be omitted.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

1 One or more of the following sentences may be said:

Jesus said: 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'

Jesus said: 'I have come that you may have life, and may have it in all its fullness.'

Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

2 Hymn

I Loving God,
in whom all things are made whole,
you sent your Son our Saviour
to heal a broken world.
Visit us with your salvation,
that we may be blessed
in body, mind and spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* 4 Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

'Anyone who comes to me I will never turn away.'

In the presence of God, let us confess our sins.

Silence

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to God and to one another.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you offer us a new beginning.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Silence

God is love.

Through Jesus our sins are forgiven.

Let us live in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

* 5 The collect of the day or this or some other prayer:

Holy God, you give life to all; you meet us in our need and bring hope to those who look to you. Give peace to our hearts and minds as we pray to you with confidence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

6 If anointing is to take place, this prayer is said over the oil:

Heavenly Father, giver of life and salvation, bless this oil for the healing of the sick. May those who receive this ministry be made whole by the power of the Holy Spirit; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.** 7 Hymn

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

8 The Old Testament reading for the day, or one of the following:

Isaiah 35:1-10 Isaiah 40:1-11

Isaiah 53:4-12

Isaiah 54:7-10

Ezekiel 47:1-12

9 The Psalm for the day, or one of the following:

Psalms 23, 27, 30, 46, 91, 103 or 121

10 The Epistle for the day, or one of the following:

Acts 3:1-16 Acts 28:7-10 Romans 8:18-27 2 Corinthians 4:16 - 5:5

James 5:13-16

- 11 Hymn
- *12 A reading from the Gospel according to . . .

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

The Gospel for the day is read, or one of the following:

Matthew 5:1-12

Matthew 6:25-34

Mark 1:21-34

Mark 9:14-29

Luke 7:18-23 Luke 9:1-6

Luke 10:1-9, 38-42

Luke 11:5-13

John 9:1-41 John 14:12-27

This is the Gospel of Christ. **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

- *13 Sermon
- 14 Hymn
- *15 Prayers for the healing of the Church, the nations and individuals may be offered, concluding with this or some other prayer:

Christ our Saviour, born for us, bring healing and peace to all people.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, baptized in the Jordan, give hope to all who come to you.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, tested in the desert, give courage to those who are tempted.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, who comforted and healed, bring wholeness to all who are broken.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, who hung in agony on the cross, bring strength to those who suffer.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Christ, who died to save us, give peace to all who face death.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Christ, raised from the tomb, bring light and life to all the world.

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Christ, present among your disciples, unite all your people in love.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Silence

The grace of Christ attend us, the love of God surround us, and the Holy Spirit keep us, this day and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS AND/OR ANOINTING WITH OIL

16 If the Lord's Supper is to be celebrated, the laying on of hands and/or the anointing with oil may take place here, or at no. 29.

If the Lord's Supper is not to be celebrated, the laying on of hands and/or the anointing with oil takes place here.

Before the people receive the laying on of hands and/or anointing with oil, those exercising this ministry may receive it from one another.

One of the following sentences may be said at either the laying on of hands or the anointing with oil:

EITHER

A Father,

send your Spirit of life and health on your servant, *N*; in the Name of Christ. **Amen.**

OR

N, the grace of Christ bring you wholeness and give you peace. **Amen.**

OR

C May the Spirit of the living God, present with us now, heal you of all that harms you, in body, mind, or spirit; in the Name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

17 The Peace

All stand.

Christ is our peace.

He breaks down the walls that divide us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another in the name of Christ.

18 If the Lord's Supper is not to be celebrated, the service continues from no. 36.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

- 19 Hymn
- *20 The offerings of the people are presented. Bread and wine are brought to the table (or if already on the table are uncovered). The presiding minister takes the bread and wine and prepares them for use.

THE THANKSGIVING

*21 All stand.

The presiding minister leads the great prayer of thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious God,

you have loved us from the beginning of time and remembered us when we were in trouble.

Your mercy endures for ever.

Redeeming God,

you have come to us in Jesus Christ,

to save us from our sins.

Your mercy endures for ever.

Holy God,

you have sent us your Spirit,

to comfort us and lead us into all truth.

Your mercy endures for ever.

And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place, joining with choirs of angels in the eternal hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

On the night before he died, Jesus had supper with his disciples. He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'Take this and eat it. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in remembrance of me.'

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we proclaim his eternal sacrifice, and declare the mystery of faith:

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Father, pour out your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

In union with him, we offer ourselves to you that, strengthened by the Spirit, we may be signs of your life and love, as we await the coming of his kingdom of justice and peace.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, Father most holy, now and for ever. Amen.

* 22 The Lord's Prayer

FITHER

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*23 The presiding minister breaks the bread in the sight of the people in silence, or saying:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

The presiding minister may lift the cup in silence, or saying:

We lift up the cup of salvation.

And call on the name of the Lord.

- *24 Silence, all seated or kneeling
- *25 Jesus is the Lamb of God
 who takes away the sin of the world.
 Happy are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

*26 The presiding minister, those assisting with the distribution and the people receive, according to local custom.

Appropriate words of invitation may be said.

*27 Words such as the following are said during the distribution:

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. Amen.

- 28 During the distribution there may be appropriate music.
- 29 If the laying on of hands and/or the anointing with oil has not taken place at no. 16, it takes place here.
- *30 The elements that remain are covered with a white cloth.

PRAYERS AND DISMISSAL

31 Silence

32 Let us pray.

Gracious God, we thank you that you have nourished us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Renew us day by day until, with all your people on earth and in heaven, we come to fullness of life in your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

33 Hymn

34 The presiding minister says:

EITHER

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look on you with kindness and give you peace. **Amen.**

OR

God be gracious to us and bless us; and make his face to shine upon us. **Amen.**

*35 The presiding minister says:

Go in peace to rejoice in God's love and to reflect his glory.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

If there is no celebration of the Lord's Supper, the service continues as follows after no. 17:

36 Prayers of thanksgiving

We thank you, gracious God. You have loved us from the beginning of time and remembered us when we were in trouble. Your mercy endures for ever.

We thank you, redeeming God. You have come to us in Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins.

Your mercy endures for ever.

We thank you, holy God. You have sent us your Spirit, to comfort us and lead us into all truth.

Your mercy endures for ever.

Gracious, redeeming and holy God, glory and praise be yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

37 The Lord's Prayer

EITHER

We say together the prayer that Jesus gave us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name. your kingdom come, vour 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.

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself
and our hearts are restless
till they find their rest in you.
Teach us to offer ourselves to your service,
that here we may have your peace,
and in the world to come may see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God. now and for ever. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

39 Hymn

40 EITHER

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look on you with kindness and give you peace. Amen.

41 Go in peace
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect his glory.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

OR

God be gracious to us and bless us; and make his face to shine upon us. **Amen.**

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.
- 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.

FITHER

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

HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

Ezekiel 11:19-20 Mark 1:14-15 Luke 6:36-37 Luke 15:8-10 John 8:31*b*-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.**

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

PRAYER WITH THE DYING

INTRODUCTION

Prayer with the Dying may be part of the process of reconciliation with God. There is no more fitting way to spend the final moments of our life than in prayer to God who brought us into being and into whose arms we will pass. This is a service of readings and prayers which may be used either near or at the point of death. The words, 'Go forth upon your journey . . .', have traditionally been said either before or shortly after death.

NOTE

The way in which this service is used will depend greatly on the condition of the one who is dying. Even if the dying person cannot register a response it is still appropriate to pray with her or him. If necessary, the words printed in **bold** type may be said by the leader alone.

1 One or both of the following sentences:

Peace be to this house and all who dwell in it.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **Amen.**

2 One or both of the following may be said:

Saint Paul said: 'The Lord is near; do not be anxious, but in everything make your requests known to God in prayer and petition with thanksgiving. Then the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.'

Jesus said: 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.'

3 Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, bless N in this time of weakness, and comfort her/him with the promise of eternal life, given in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

4 EITHER

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Psalm 23

OR

I lift up my eyes to the hills from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day. nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Psalm 121

OR

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvellous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Psalm 131:1-2a

5 Let us in silence confess our sins to God.

Silence

EITHER

A Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

OR

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, В we have sinned against you and against our neighbours, in thought and word and deed, in the evil we have done and in the good we have not done. through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life; to the glory of your name. Amen.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

To all who truly repent this is his gracious word: 'Your sins are forgiven.'

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
 your word has been fulfilled.
 My own eyes have seen the salvation
 which you have prepared in the sight of every people:
 a light to reveal you to the nations
 and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

7 One or both of the following prayers may be said, or the minister may pray in her/his own words:

Remember, O Lord, those who are sick or suffer pain and those who are close to death, especially our *sister/ brother N*. Comfort us with your presence, sustain us by your promises, and grant us your peace; in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

God of glory, make bright with your presence the path of those who walk in the valley of darkness. Deliver *N*'s family and friends from anxiety and fear, that they may live in peace and be at one with you; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

8 The Lord's Prayer

EITHER

We say together the prayer that Jesus gave us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, vour 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.

9 FITHER

A Go forth upon your journey, Christian soul, in the name of God the Father who created you; in the name of Jesus Christ who suffered for you; in the name of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you; in communion with the blessèd saints, with angels and archangels and with all the heavenly host. May you rest in peace and may the City of God be your eternal dwelling. Amen.

OR

B May God the Father,
who created you,
have mercy on you.
May God the Son, Jesus Christ,
who conquered death for you,
have mercy on you.
May God the Holy Spirit,
who sanctifies you,
have mercy on you.
May God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
grant you eternal rest and peace. Amen.

OR

- C Mighty God,
 we commend your daughter/son N
 to your everlasting love and mercy.
 Give her/him joy and gladness in your presence;
 give her/him the assurance of your forgiveness and love;
 give her/him your peace, now and for ever. Amen.
- The peace of God,
 which passes all understanding,
 keep your/our hearts and minds
 in the knowledge and love of God
 and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
 and the blessing of God,
 the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
 remain with you/us always. Amen.