

A CELTIC SERVICE FOR HEALING

Thursday at 6:30 PM, St. Paul's on the Green, Norwalk, Connecticut

Welcome to St. Paul's on the Green. We're glad you're here.

Please prepare for worship in silence and in prayer.

You are invited to light a taper and place it in the candle stand on entering the church.

As the ringing of the bell fades, the people stand.

GATHERING

Leader: We gather in this place; some of us empty, some of us broken:

People: **yearning for the Holy Spirit to fill us.**

Leader: We come, among fellow seekers who have shown us the way:

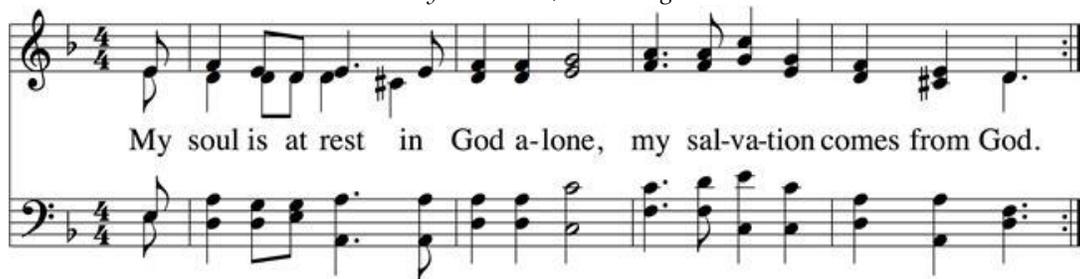
People: **trusting that God will continue to illumine our hearts.**

Leader: We gather together, longing to be fed by the Spirit and one another:

People: **that graced, we may serve others; that healed, we may bring hope to the world.**

CHANT

introduced by the cantor, then sung three times



My soul is at rest in God a-lone, my sal-va-tion comes from God.

words: Psalm 62; Taizé community

music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

music and words © 1982, 1983, 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc.

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OPENING PRAYER

Leader: As the rain hides the stars,

People: **as the autumn mist**

hides the hills,

as the clouds veil

the blue of the sky, so

the dark happenings of my lot

hide the shining of thy face from me.

Yet, if I may hold thy hand in the darkness,

it is enough, since I know,

that though I may stumble in my going,

thou dost not fall.

The people sit.

THE READING

The reader announces and reads the first passage from today's lectionary.

Reader: Hear what the spirit is saying to the people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

led by the cantor



Heal me, hands of Je - sus, and search out all my pain: re -
store my hope, re - move my fear and bring me peace a - gain.

words: Michael Perry (1942-1996)
music: *Sharpe*, Carl Haywood (b. 1949)
words © 1982, 1989 Hope Publishing Company
music © 1997 Church Publishing Inc.
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THE GOSPEL

The reader announces and reads the Gospel from today's lectionary.

Reader: Hear what the spirit is saying to the people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The hymn is repeated at the conclusion of the Gospel.

THE REFLECTION

Following the reflection, a bell rings, introducing a period of silence.

At the second ringing of the bell, the people stand.

THE PRAYERS

Leader: Lord, hear the suffering of your people.

I speak for all the peoples of the world, the victims of war and disaster, and all those who are hurt or hungry, afraid or anxious.

Lord, in your compassion,

People: **come near to heal and to bless.**

Leader: I speak for the earth itself - how it groans as mankind despoils its beauty and is careless of its natural laws!

Lord, in your compassion,

People: **come near to heal and to bless.**

Leader: I speak for the children who are abandoned or lost, without families and without love, for those who live in the streets, for those who live in institutions, for all children everywhere who are abused, frightened, or alone.

Lord, in your compassion,

People: **come near to heal and to bless.**

Leader: I speak for all who are sick, those who are in pain, those waiting for surgery, those who face long-term illnesses or incurable diseases.

Lord, in your compassion,

People: come near to heal and to bless.

Leader: I speak for all who have died, and for all those who loved and cared for them.

Lord, in your compassion,

People: come near to heal and to bless.

Leader: I speak for all people who wrestle with their identity, in the struggle to love and understand themselves, or the struggle to feel loved and understood by others.

Lord, in your compassion,

People: come near to heal and to bless.

Leader: I speak for all people who are homeless or unemployed, and all those anxious about money.

Lord, in your compassion,

People: come near to heal and to bless.

Leader: I speak for all who feel they have lost control of their lives, who struggle with dependency and addiction, who have lost a loved one, who are concerned for a friend, who are confused and uncertain, who suffer any pain they cannot shake.

Lord, in your compassion,

People: come near to heal and to bless.

Leader: You are above us, O God; you are beneath. You are in the air; you are in the earth; you are beside us; you are within. You are in the betrayed and suffering people of our world just as you were in the broken body of Jesus. Grant that we may know your resurrection as blessing and goodness in our lives.

People: Amen.

Leader: I invite us to add our own prayers and thanksgivings.

The people may add their own petitions, either silently or aloud.

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT US

Leader: Let us pray.

**People: Oh Holy One, Our only home, hallowed be your name.
May your day dawn, and may your will be done here as in heaven.
Feed us and forgive us as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test, but deliver us from evil.
For the glory and power of mercy and love are yours.
Now and forever.
Amen.**

Leader: Be present, Spirit of God, within us, your dwelling place and home, that this house may be one where all darkness is penetrated by your light, all troubles calmed by your peace, all evil redeemed by your love, all pain transformed by your suffering, and all dying glorified in Your risen life.

People: Amen.

The people sit.

HEALING PRAYER

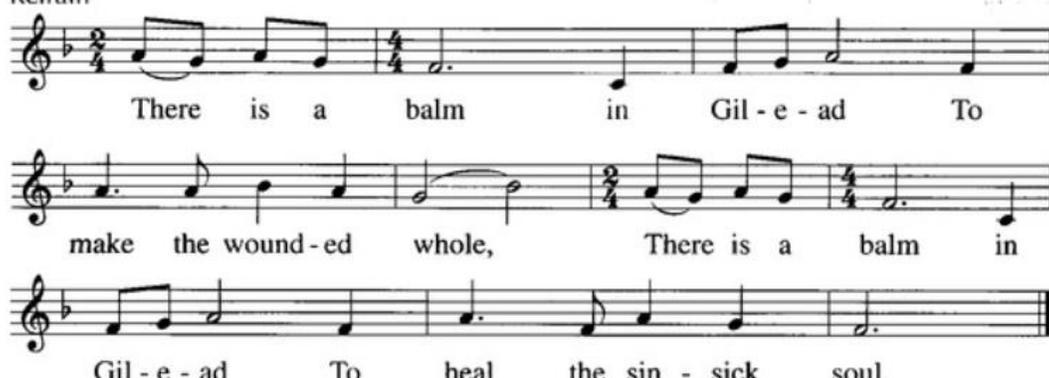
All are welcome to partake in healing prayer for themselves, for loved ones, for the world, or for any ailment in need of prayer. Please come forward at the direction of the leader if you wish to receive healing prayer today.

When all have returned from healing prayer, the people stand and join in the hymn.

HYMN

led by the cantor

Refrain



There is a balm in Gil - e - ad To
make the wound - ed whole, There is a balm in
Gil - e - ad To heal the sin - sick soul.

Verses



1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged And
2. If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, If you
3. Don't ev - er feel dis - cour - aged, For
think my work's in vain, But then the Ho - ly
can - not pray like Paul, You can tell the love of
Je - sus is your friend; And if you lack for
D.C.
Spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain.
Je - sus, And say, "He died for all!"
knowl - edge He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

words: Jeremiah 8:22, African American spiritual, tr. By Evelyn Robert-Olivieri (b. 1940)

music: *Balm in Gilead*, African American Spiritual

music © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

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THE PRAYER AND PEACE

Leader: Our Lord Jesus Christ,
present with us now in his risen power,
enter into your body and spirit,
take from you all that harms and hinders you,
and fill you with his healing and his peace.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

As the people depart, they share a sign of peace with one another.