

## SESSION 6 SACRAMENTAL MINISTRY OF HEALING

Reading: James 5.13-16

### 6.1 Sacraments, Signs and Symbols

- “an outward and physical sign of an inner and spiritual grace”
- Jesus left two great Sacraments of Baptism (Acts 2.38) and Holy Communion (1 Cor 11.23ff) – both are healing
- Many aspects of creation can be sacramental – a sunset, scenery, art, music, poetry
- In church worship – candles, music, stained glass windows, liturgy, touch, smell, time
- Importance of what we do **and** how we do it. Good practice is a vital ingredient for healing
- All of these can be channels of God’s healing grace
- Of special significance in the healing ministry are the laying on of hands and anointing with oil

### 6.2 Laying on of Hands

- Luke 4.40 Simon’s mother-in-law
- James 5.14 Call the elders to pray over them
- Mark 16.18 Signs of the end: lay hands on the sick who will recover
- Acts 28.8 Paul in Malta praying for Publius’ father, putting his hands on him
- Touch assists healing, although for a few, it can remind them of previous abuse
- Lay hands **lightly**, normally on the head or shoulder or on the affected part
- Ask permission and always take care to avoid embarrassment or offence
- Ideally use mixed pairs of ministers, avoid private one-to-one ministry
- Sometimes single gender ministry is appropriate.
- Ensure that those who pray for others, regularly receive prayer for themselves

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who laid his hands on the sick that they might be healed, we lay our hands upon you.

May Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, make you whole in body, mind, and spirit, give you light and peace, and keep you in life eternal. Amen.

In the name of God and trusting in his might alone, receive Christ’s healing touch to make you whole.

May Christ bring you wholeness of body, mind and spirit, deliver you from every evil, and give you his peace. Amen.

*Common Worship*

Spirit of the living God, present with us now, enter you, body, mind and spirit, and heal you of all that harms you in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Iona Community*

### 6.3 Anointing with Oil

- James 5.14 "... anointing them with oil ..."
- Mark 6.13 Sending the 12 who anointed with oil
- Luke 10.34 Good Samaritan used oil and wine (medicine)
- Christ the Anointed One
  - The Greek *Christos* means the Anointed one of God (same as Hebrew *Messiah*)
  - Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power (Acts 10.38)
  - Jesus' Manifesto (Isaiah 61 & Luke 4)
- Anglican Bishops normally bless olive oil on Maundy Thursday for use in their diocese
  - For use in Baptism
  - For ministry to the sick
  - Perfumed oil for use at Confirmation and Ordination (Chrism)

**Lord**, holy Father, giver of health and salvation, as your apostles anointed those who were sick and healed them, so continue the ministry of healing in your Church. Sanctify this oil, that those who are anointed with it may be freed from suffering and distress, find inward peace, and know the joy of your salvation, through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Common Worship*

- In Anglican public worship, a bishop or priest must preside and bless the oil to be used
- In some traditions, anointing can be carried out by lay ministers
- Anointing can be administered to the forehead and/or palms, with the sign of the cross

**N**, I anoint you in the name of God who gives you life. Receive Christ's forgiveness, his healing and his love. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ grant you the riches of his grace, his wholeness and his peace. Amen.

*Common Worship*

As outwardly and with sacramental oil your body is anointed so may Almighty God, our Father, inwardly anoint your soul, to strengthen you with all the comfort and the joy of his most Holy Spirit, and loose you from all that troubles you in body, mind, or spirit. May he send you forth, renewed and restored to do his will, to your benefit, in the service of others, but above all to the glory of his Holy Name. Amen.

*St Marylebone Parish Church*

## SESSION 6 LINKWORK

In the weeks and months to come, expect that God will continue to lead you into further wholeness.

Spend time reviewing and praying through the course material and Bible references.

Try to have regular times of 'retreat' away from your normal routine.

Ensure that you are committed to regular worship, prayer and fellowship with other Christians.

Find a "soul-mate" or Spiritual Director with whom you can be open and honest about yourself and your walk with God.

Look out for opportunities to learn more about the healing ministry and to support its development in your church and community.

Make use of the opportunities to receive prayer ministry when it is available.

Christ has no body now but yours  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours  
Yours are the eyes with which he sees  
Yours are the feet with which he walks  
Yours are the hands with which  
he blesses all the world.

(St Teresa of Avila)