

Heal Us

Prelude

Open in Reflective Silence (Quotes and questions for guided reflection found on the back.)

Opening Litany (adapted from Psalm 80)

Heal us, O Shepherd, as we cry to you. **Heal us, O God.**

You who lead Joseph like a flock, **Heal us, O God.**

You, who are enthroned upon the cherubim. **Heal us, O God.**

Shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh. **Heal us, O God.**

Stir up your strength, and come to help us! **Heal us, O God.**

Heal us, O God; **Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Hymn "Lost in the Night" ELW # 243

Prayer

Almighty God, you love never fails, and you turn the shadow of death into daybreak. Bring us your word and give us believing hearts, so that, confident in your promises, we may have hope in the future and be lifted out of any sorrow into the joy and peace of your presence; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" ELW # 257 (st. 2)

Reading James 5:13-16

Reflection

Hymn "Each Winter As the Year Grows Older" ELW # 252

Prayer

God for whom we wait, you come to us, in water and word, in broken bread and wine. Heal us now and be a balm to your people. For those who are sick...For those who are grieving...For those who are displaced...For those who are tired...And for others who are in need of your care...

Heal us, God, and be a balm to your people. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray. Our Father,...

Hymn "There is a Balm in Gilead" ELW # 614

Silent Reflection

Postlude

Reflective Quotes/Questions

“What does it mean that He should come to us; and why rather have we not gone to Him? For it is we who were in need, and it is not usual for the rich to come seeking the poor, that is, if they still desire to retain their own superiority. And in truth, brethren, it was more fitting that we should go to Him, but against this was a twofold barrier, our eyes were dim and groping, and He ‘inhabits light inaccessible;’ and, lying paralyzed upon our poor beds, we could not ascend to that divine sublimity. And so the Most Benign Savior, the Physician of our souls, comes down from His glory, tempering the brightness of His Splendor to our infirm sight.” - *The Advent of the Lord and Its Six Circumstances (Homily 1)*, Bernard of Clairvaux b. 1090-d. 20 August 1153

“One indication in the New Testament of God’s care for the human body lies in all the healing miracles of Jesus. Like other religious figures in the tradition, such as Elijah and Peter after the resurrection, like countless charismatic miracle workers in many religions, Jesus radiated healing powers that brought wholeness back to broken bodies. The ancient promises of the coming reign of God said that the lame would walk, that the lepers would be cleansed...” *Treasures Old and New: Images in the Lectionary*, Gail Ramshaw

What do you think God’s healing looks like? Is it the same as our modern medical understanding of health or different?

Where have you felt God’s healing presence in your life?

How can caring for the body be a spiritual practice? Is it always?

For those who are suffering physically, mentally, spiritually, how could the Advent season be viewed? Helpful? Hurtful? In what ways?

Read the text for this evening. (p. 983) What might God be up to in this text?

In the season of Advent what might you lift up to God for healing and peace?