



**uniting
church**
Kiama Jamberoo

**Healing Service
Thursday 28 May 2020**

A video of this service can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/422990421/5b0833e9e1>
Please note, the video does not include the songs but you can click through to them using the links included below.

As a deer longs for streams of cool water,
so I long for you, O God.

We gather here to worship you our Great God.
We have felt your touch seep into us in the gentle autumn sunlight.
We have experienced your power in the salt waves crashing against the sand.
We have wondered at your majesty in the stars across the night sky and the moon shining over the water.
We are amazed that the maker of the universe knows us by name.

We are here, God.
We are here to praise you and worship you.

We are here, Jesus our friend and Saviour.
We know that you came to find us.
We have listened to your words and smiled at your stories.
We have felt the warmth of your love, and we thank you that you have called us friends.

We are here, Jesus.
We are here to praise you and worship you.

We are here, Holy Spirit.
We are grateful for your presence, grateful for the way you bring us close, for the way you comfort us and challenge us and keep us right.

We are here, Holy Spirit.
We are here to praise you and worship you.

We are here, God In this moment, in this place, where your love has shone for centuries, and we thank you that you are here with us.
You know us, God. We do not have to pretend with you.

Listen to the words of Jesus, words that we can trust: 'Don't be afraid.' 'I love you.' 'Your sins are forgiven.' 'I will be with you always.'
Write these words in our hearts, loving God, let them take root in our living. **Amen.**

Song – The Power of Your Love (Lord, I come to you) - Hillsong

A live version recorded in 1995 by Darlene Zschech:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F56qmbKcBsE>

Recorded by Geoff Bullock - with lyrics:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6yQzQc0lnA>

Reading: Luke 13: 10-13 - Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman

10 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. 11 And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. 12 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." 13 When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.

Reflection:

It is clear as we read both the old and New Testaments that there are different types of healing. Physical, Emotional and Spiritual. Most of the miracles of healing are performed by Jesus, but others healed as well. Jesus tells his disciples that they will do greater things after he has ascended, and the Holy Spirit comes to be with them, with us.

Sometimes Jesus asked the person what they wanted from him. Other times Jesus acted when he saw the need. And still at least one other time, a woman crept up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. However, it is that we come today, asking for healing, for wholeness, Jesus is ready to pay attention to our need.

Perhaps you have come on behalf of another person. There are examples of this as well in the Scriptures. The friends who lowered their buddy down through the roof into the presence of Jesus or the father who asked for healing for his child; both point to the fact that Jesus will stop and pay attention to what it is we are asking for and reach out with healing.

So, if your need is a physical one you can be sure that Jesus is interested in your wellbeing. Just like for the woman who was crippled for eighteen years he longs to reach out and touch your life.

Or perhaps you have the need for emotional healing at this time. We know that many of us are lonely. We have been isolated, unable to meet with others as we would like. Unable to go about our daily routines, keeping the pattern of our days. I love the story of Zacchaeus who climbs a tree to see Jesus as he passes by. Jesus stops, notices him, and invites himself to dinner. Zacchaeus didn't have a physical illness as far as we know, but he did feel isolated, rejected by his own people, even loathed by many because of his job as a tax collector. Jesus restored him to society that day. Jesus brought healing and wholeness to his life.

Another kind of healing is Spiritual. This is much trickier to describe, and I suspect trickier to own up to. We are taught in Jesus to "renew our minds" (Romans 12:1-2) and to 'put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness' (Ephesians 4:24). Sometimes we stray spiritually, and we need healing and forgiving. Sometimes we have been taught the wrong thing or there is a new learning to be discovered. I think of the conversation Peter had with Jesus after the

resurrection when they were standing on the seashore. Peter had denied knowing Jesus three times before Jesus was killed. Now he needed forgiving and restoring. He needed spiritual healing.

Today we take some time to reflect on what kind of healing we are asking God for. We will take some time to make an assessment or a sober judgment of our lives and ask God for the healing we so desire.

Song – Beauty for Brokenness – Graham Kendrick

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPvioAt5fq4>

Prayers of healing.

Jesus, people came to you when they were in trouble or pain. Friends carried them, strangers told you about them; some invited you into their homes or met you walking on the road. You listened to them, you prayed with them and you brought hope and healing into their lives. So, we bring into our minds and hold in God's presence those for whom we have been asked to pray.

Jesus, you welcomed children and blessed them; you gave their parents courage and hope. Jesus, through your words and touch those who were distressed found peace, and those who were tormented found rest. You prayed for those who were sick, and you restored them to health. You wept for the city you loved. In your words and actions, the oppressed found justice and the angry found release. Jesus, you knew the joy of God's presence day by day. You cried when a friend died, and you shared the grief of those who mourn. You taught us to pray. So, in a moment of silence we pray for all known to us who need to know you are near.
(Silence)

We thank you, for all engaged in the ministries of healing and reconciliation, for those who work in hospitals and hospices, for doctors and nurses, for carers and counsellors, for peacemakers and peacekeepers. God our maker, Jesus our healer, Holy Spirit of love and life, hear our prayers.

To those who seek you, to all who need you, to the world you cherish bring healing, bring wholeness, bring peace. **Amen.**

God our Maker, you call us to be your presence in the world. Here, through our hands and prayers, bring healing, hope and peace. **Amen.**

Spirit of the living God present with us now, enfold us, body, mind and spirit, and heal us of all that harms us, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Closing prayers

Watch now, dear Lord, with those who wake or watch or weep. Tend your sick ones, O Christ, rest your weary ones, bless your dying ones, soothe your suffering ones, shield your joyous ones, and all for your love's sake.

God surround us in our sleeping, in our waking, in our watching, in our hoping.

Amen.