

Healing Service



Sit somewhere comfortable and let yourself come into the presence of God, knowing that others, some we know and some we don't, are doing the same in their homes, on their balconies, in their gardens or their quiet God spot.

The yellow ribbon is provided as a remembrance that God is with us all but also we are together with a whole community who offer their love and need your love in return.

If possible have a candle and perhaps a holding cross.

Opening Prayer

(inspired by Psalm 130)

O Lord our God, we come to you, seeking to rise up from the depths and agony of despair. Please listen, our Saving God—we need your help and blessing.

Lord, through the tenderness of your mercy towards us we have learned to worship you—and to revere your Holy Name; therefore, we place our entire trust and hope in you, our Trustworthy God.

We gather to offer you our thanks, for we know that you offer us your unfailing love and mercy that is beyond our understanding. You know our longing for forgiveness, and you offer us your presence - which blesses us from God's overflowing store of mercy, hope, freedom and joy. Amen.

~ written by Joanna Harader and posted on **Spacious Faith**.

Bible reading:

A Pilgrim Song

130 ¹⁻² Help, GOD—the bottom has fallen out of my life!

Master, hear my cry for help!

Listen hard! Open your ears!

Listen to my cries for mercy.

³⁻⁴ If you, GOD, kept records on wrongdoings,
who would stand a chance?

As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit,
and that's why you're worshiped.

⁵⁻⁶ I pray to GOD—my life a prayer—
and wait for what he'll say and do.

My life's on the line before God, my Lord,
waiting and watching till morning,
waiting and watching till morning.

⁷⁻⁸ O Israel, wait and watch for GOD—
with GOD's arrival comes love,
with GOD's arrival comes generous redemption.

No doubt about it—he'll redeem Israel,
buy back Israel from captivity to sin.

(The Message)

Only by grace

If you can access YouTube there is a wonderful version of the song here:

<https://youtu.be/F21gQwATaac>

Only by grace can we enter
Only by grace can we stand
Not by our human endeavour
But by the blood of the Lamb

Into Your presence You call us
You call us to come
Into Your presence You draw us
And now by Your grace we come
Now by Your grace we come

Lord, if You marked our transgressions,
who would stand?
Thanks to Your grace we are cleansed by
the blood of the Lamb
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Reflection:

Take the yellow ribbon and hold it in your hand. This represents what a lot of us are feeling at the moment, sorry, confusion, loss, lament. Kiama, Gerringong, Gerroa and Jamberoo have been rocked by the number of young people taking their own lives during these last weeks. We are locked into our homes, our town, our state and even without plans to go anywhere, we still sense being locked in.

The Psalmist expresses just how we may be feeling, “the bottom has fallen out of my life...”

Even though we may not be fully impacted we still struggle, with the enforced boundaries around us, with a loss of independence, a loss of freedom. We fret the loss of family and friends with illness, the loss of those with this disease around the world, and we fret especially for those who have struggled for so long, so long that taking their lives was to them the best option. In our anxiety, our fretting, our struggles we hold this ribbon (stone) as a symbol of that struggle.

As we sit in that place with the Psalmist, that place where we think no one knows about us, no one cares for us, no one knows my pain, my struggles, this ribbon is a reminder that we are not alone, that we are never alone or apart from the love God offers us, pours out on us.

The Psalmist sat and waited, it says in v6, waits and watches for God to come. But the one who sits waiting and watching, waits and watches with hope. Hope grounded in unshakeable love and grace. The Psalmist who is terrified that they can never measure up to what God expects, waits and watches with excitement and in hope, because they wait for the God of grace... “With God’s arrival comes love, with God’s arrival comes generous redemption”

That love, that generous redemption offered to us where we are.

That’s where we may be at the moment, locked in, locked down and locked up but as we wait and watch we see God arriving bringing grace and love, we see God arriving bringing generous redemption.

These yellow ribbons started appearing around Kiama, Gerringong, Gerroa and Jamberoo in August. It was the community coming together to say to those who are locked into a dark place, you are not alone, you are not forgotten, you are not locked in. Use the ribbon to tie on a fencepost or tree outside, tie it to a door knob or to the handle of the kettle so every time you use those the door or put on the kettle or look outside, you are reminded that God is arriving with love and generous redemption and the community is with you too.

And may God add his healing power to these words, Amen.

Prayer for others

(As you pray, pause at the end of each line to think of those we hold dear struggling)

O Lord, hear our prayers:

Prayers for hope for those who feel hopeless
Prayers for healing for those who need healing
Prayers for jobs for those who are jobless
Prayers for community for those who feel lonely
Prayers for peace for those whose lives are filled with conflict.
Prayers for understanding for those seeking to be understood.
Prayers for comfort those who grieve.
Prayers for food for those who hunger.
Prayers for shelter for those who are homeless.
Prayers for clean water for those whose waters are contaminated
Prayers for rain for those who live in drought.
Prayers for a time of drying for those who are facing too much rain.
Prayers for freedom for those who live under dictatorships.
Prayers for wisdom for our leaders.
Prayers for spiritual growth and health for our churches.
Prayers for your Kingdom to reign here on earth.
O Lord, hear our prayers.

Amen.

— written by Rev Abi, and posted on **RevGalBlogPals** blog.

Our final blessing:

Sending out and Blessing

(based on Psalm 130)

Wait for the LORD,
We wait with deep longing;
and in his word we stand, waiting in hope.
Hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with the LORD is great power to save.

Go into the world with assurance, hope and promise:
the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ rest upon you;
the love of God, creator and giver of life, embrace you;
and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit uphold you,
this day and all your days. **Amen.**

— adapted from a prayer by Jeff Shrowder 2000, 2012.

Prepared by Meredith Yabsley
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