

Healing Service For Break The Silence Sunday

by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan © 2015

The ministry of healing in body, mind and soul is clear in the gospels. Jesus so often met men, women and children and touched them, had conversation with them, or reoriented their livelihood. There are also many Biblical stories of renewal, forgiveness and restoration.

Today's service continues that ministry of Jesus Christ enacted by our community.

In prayer, song and silence, we gather as survivors of abuse, sexual violence and rape; spouses, family members and important friends.

We are all people both in need of wholeness and with healing to offer one another.

All are welcome.

The people enter in silence with an attitude of prayer, giving thanks for community and asking comfort and strength for those in sorrow and grief.

(Half-light?)

15 minute Prelude- hymn instrumentals

(Possibilities include: It Is Well With My Soul, Jesus Loves Me, My Hope is built on Nothing Less, Amazing Grace, Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying, Come and Fill Our Hearts).

Welcome

Litany of Invocation from Psalm 42

(The people stand as they are able)

One: As a deer thirsts for the waterbrooks, so my soul longs for you, O God.

Many: By day God commands unfailing love; at night God's song is with me.

One: My soul thirsts for the Holy One, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of my God?

Many: By day God commands unfailing love; at night God's song is with me.

One: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you so disturbed within me?

Many: By day God commands unfailing love; at night God's song is with me.

One: 'Hope in the Lord, and wait', I tell my soul; 'wait for God, for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

Many: By day God commands unfailing love; at night God's song is with me.

(Please be seated)

Words of Confession and Forgiveness.

One: At the beginning of this time together, we take a moment to acknowledge the truth: the each of us has broken places and unfinished stories. Being honest with one another and opening to God, we take a deep breath.

Many: God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid, see us and hear us as we truly are. Heal us and help us to heal. Forgive us and help us to forgive.

One: Our great God of love has claimed you and called you wonderful. No matter what your past, present or future, receive the full joy of God's presence in and about you.

Many: Amen.

A song: "Healer of Our Every Ill" by Marty Haugen

(Chalice Hymnal #506; Evangelical Lutheran Worship #612);
or another hymn of healing & hope

Reading One: Psalm 139.1-16

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in the underworld, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

A full silence is held.

Prayer: Creator God, You know us and you hold us in love through each season of our lives. Bless us in this time as we bring to mind our stories and witness for one another both grief and healing. Through Jesus Christ, Lord, friend, and healer. Amen.

Candle Lighting ~ A Time Of Remembering

Invitation to light candles

At this time, we invite you to make a prayer for what you are remembering tonight. Please feel free to take your time with this. It's a moment to hold one another in gentleness and grace. During the candle lighting, we will sing together songs of God's love and guidance.

The assembly comes forward where tables have been set with votive candles in globes.

Hymn: "Borning Cry"

(New Century Hymnal #351; Evangelical Lutheran Worship #732)

Taizé or other meditative songs as needed:

"Come and Fill Our Hearts;" "Jesus, Remember Me"

Reading Two: Psalm 46.1-7. 10-11

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy home of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

A full silence is held.

Prayer: God, our Home and our Help, be with us this season as we remember. Hold us with all the emotions of our experiences— sadness, confusion, anger, gratitude, fear. Stir in us holy hope that all our lives are being made whole in your love. Through Jesus who calls and welcomes us. Amen.

Hymn: “Hear My Cry, O God (Psalm 61)” by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Or another song familiar to your community

Reading Three: Romans 8.38-39

A reading from Paul’s letter to his friends in Rome, Italy.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A full silence is held.

Prayer: O God that will not let us go, Your love holds us, and holds onto us. Renew in us the promise of Your never-ending grace so that we know the strong ground on which we stand, and the trusted anchor in which we hope.

Hymn:

“Amazing Grace” (New Century Hymnal #547)

“God Is Holding Your Life (Ps 121)” by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
Another song familiar to your community

Prayer For All Who Need Healing & Hope

One: In the name of Jesus Christ, the great Healer and reconciler of the world, let us entrust to God all who are in need.

A brief silence

One: Loving Maker, our source and final home, we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth and all you have created. In your great mercy:

Many: Hear us, O God.

One: Fierce and Gentle Healer, your Son Jesus brought healing and wholeness to all who have experienced abuse, sexual violence or rape. Bring ease now to all who are grieving, hope to the discouraged, peace to the distressed. In your great mercy:

Many: Hear us, O God.

One: Spirit of Strength, give courage to family members and friends of those who have survived abuse, rape, or sexual violence (use whatever language is best) that they might be generous listeners, gentle healers and hopeful presence. In your great mercy:

Many: Hear us, O God.

One: Gentle Healer, walk with us as we come to accept life as it is now. We need your help to forgive those we need to forgive; and we need your forgiveness for the things we have done, and the things we have left undone. We pray that all those struggling will find peace in you. In your great mercy:

Many: Hear us, O God.

One: Gracious Provider God, thank you for those who have been with us on our journey: pastors, chaplains, friends, family, neighbors. We thank you for these important carriers of your love. In your great mercy:

Many: Hear us, O God.

One: God of great and abundant mercy, with your presence sustain all for whom we pray. Drive away despair, give us firm hope, and strengthen our trust in you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Leader and Friend, Amen.

If desired, add:

Let us join in praying the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: “It Is Well With My Soul” (New Century Hymnal #438)
Or another song familiar to your community

An Invitation

These are possible suggestions for time after the service is formally ended...

- The people are invited to stay as long as they wish, and come forward for anointing and prayer.
- The people are invited for refreshments in the fellowship hall.
- The people are invited to give a free will offering which will go toward support for survivors in our community.
- Suggested Taizé songs to be played/sung as people remain as long as they wish:
 - Wait For The Lord
 - Jesus, Remember Me
 - O Lord, Hear My Prayer
 - Take O Take Me As I Am

Sending Blessing (in unison)

May the God of all comfort grant us peace.

May the God of New Life grant us hope.

May the God of Unfailing Love follow us all the days of our lives.

(In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.) Amen.