



**The North Bedford
Church Partnership**



Putnoe Heights & St. Mark's Church

The Church of England and the Methodist Church in Partnership
at *both* Putnoe Heights and St. Mark's Church

**A Service of
Holy Communion
and Prayer
for Christian Healing**

*We know that in all things God works for the good of those
who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
Romans Chapter 8 verse 28*

Prayer for Christian Healing

In this service everybody is offered the opportunity to receive a prayer for Christian Healing.

If you wish to receive this prayer please cross your arms over your chest when you come forward to receive the bread and wine. The Minister will pray the following prayer

‘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.’



Offering

An offering is taken in this service. If you are a tax payer please use the envelopes available, so that the church can reclaim the tax. This is a valuable source of income for the church. Thank you also to those who have already given their offering by standing order through the bank.

THE PREPARATION

INTRODUCTION

Minister: The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

All: Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A HYMN *may be sung*

CONFESSION

All: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against each other,
in thought and word and deed,
in the evil we have done,
and the good we have not done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Minister: God who is both power and love, forgive you and free you
from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and
raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON

Friend of sinners, you bring hope in our despair.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Healer of the sick, you give strength in our weakness.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Saviour of the world, you bring life in our dying
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

THE GLORIA *may be sung*

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE OFFERING

After the offering is collected it may be brought forward with the bread and wine. The people stand as it is presented and say

Give to us or take from us, conform our will to yours. May we not desire health or life except to spend them in service of you. Use all that we have to proclaim the good news of your kingdom, to cure the sick and relieve your suffering children, to the praise and glory of your holy name. Amen.

A HYMN *may be sung*

THE MINISTRY OF GOD’S WORD

THE COLLECT

This collect or another seasonal one may be used

Minister: Lord God you know our needs before we ask, and you are always more ready to give than we are to receive, as you make all things new, so we pray work in our lives to remake us as you would have us be.

ALL: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me
(Sung) Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me
Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

FIRST READING

Reader: The Epistle/Old Testament reading is taken from
.....(name of book)
Chapterbeginning at Verse.....

At the end of the reading

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING *all stand*

Reader: The Holy Gospel is taken from the Gospel according to Chapterbeginning at Verse.....

All: Glory to Christ our Saviour.

At the end of the reading

Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to Christ our Lord.

A HYMN *may be sung*

THE SERMON

HYMN *may be sung*

THE DECLARATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again,
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

After petitions the following responses may be said

Leader: Lord hear our prayer

All: And let our cry come unto you

The prayers end with

Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of your salvation. Merciful Father....

All: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer may be sung

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE

Minister: Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

HYMN *may be sung*

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Minister: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them to the Lord

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise

Gracious God,
you have loved us from the beginning of time
and remembered us when we were in trouble.
Your mercy endures for ever.

Redeeming God,
You have come to us in Jesus Christ,
to save us from our sins.
Your mercy endures for ever.

Holy God,
You have sent us your Spirit,
to comfort us and lead us into all truth.
Your mercy endures for ever.

And now we give you thanks because you provide medicine to
heal our sickness, and the leaves of the tree of life for the healing
of the nations, anointing us with your healing power so that we
may be the first-fruits of your new creation. Therefore with
angels and archangels. and with all the company of heaven, we
proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and
singing:

All: **Holy, holy, holy, holy**
(Sung) **holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!**
 and we lift our hearts before you,
 as a token of our love:
 holy, holy, holy, holy!

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
come and fill our hearts anew, Holy Spirit!
and we lift our voice before you,
as a token of our love,
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.

On the night before he died, Jesus had supper with his disciples. He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'Take this and eat it. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.'

All: **He is Lord, he is Lord,**
(sung) **he is risen from the dead and he is Lord!**
 Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Father, pour out your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ. In union with him, we offer ourselves to you that, strengthened by the Spirit we may be signs of your life and love, as we await the coming of his kingdom of justice and peace.

Minister: The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

All: **Though we are many, we are one body**
 because we all share in one bread.

Minister: Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In the name of God most high receive Christ's healing touch to make you whole in body, mind and spirit.

All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

All: Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So cleanse us and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, and his blood which was shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray

Gracious God, we thank you that you have nourished us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Renew us day by day until, with all your people on earth and in heaven, we come to fullness of life in your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A HYMN may be sung

THE DISMISSAL

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you. Teach us to offer ourselves to your service, that here we may have your peace, and in the world to come may see you face to face.

May God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body and save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

Minister: Go in peace to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect his glory.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Instructions for Communion

Communion is now received and you will be invited forward. If you would like communion brought to you, please remain in your seat and inform the communion steward.

Everybody is welcome to receive the bread and wine, but if for any reason you do not wish to receive, then please bring this order of service with you and hold it in your hand. The minister will then know not to offer the sacrament to you and will say a prayer of blessing instead. If you wish to partake only of the bread, take the chalice or glass as it is presented and then give it back without drinking.

If you wish to intinct (holding the wafer and dipping it into the chalice), please ensure that you dip only the tip of the wafer into the wine, your fingers must not touch the wine.

At the distribution the minister will say words of administration to which the communicant may reply, **AMEN.**

Why a service for Christian Healing?

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. *Romans 8:28*

Healing is part of the wholeness which comes from the presence of God in our lives. For this reason, prayer for individuals, focused through the laying on of hands, has a proper place within the public prayer of the Church. This verse of scripture acknowledges that Christians will face many difficult situations, yet it reminds us that even in the midst of our troubles God promises to be with us, bringing good. God is with us in our need, and his power is greater than the forces which are arrayed against us.

Christian healing is a process by which we are enabled to leave the past behind, cope with present difficulties and seek to co-operate with God in new ways. With his help we can transform the future of our lives into the fullness of what he has in store for each one of us. Our prayer is not simplistic, it does not imply a simple link between sickness and sin; Jesus warned against the direct association of disability and sin (John 9.3). However the receiving of forgiveness and the act of forgiving others may open the way to healing and wholeness.

This service seeks to enable us to acknowledge God's presence and to draw strength and encouragement as we share his healing power with one another. We all require healing in different areas of our lives.

Bodily healing is always uppermost in our minds, for that is healing which enables us to be fully functioning in our daily lives. Prayer for healing and strengthening does not involve the rejection of the skills and activity of medicine which are also part of God's faithfulness to creation. God uses many different means for our physical healing, from the skill of the surgeon to the touch of a hand in prayer.

Our relationships with one another are often marked with division and conflict and require God's healing.

Mental or emotional sickness is not as obvious, but life can be a dark tunnel of oppression and depression, with forces of evil weighing heavily upon us.

Our relationship with God is the greatest and most important area of healing for us. If we are right with God we know that he will never leave us without the strength of his presence in our lives.

In this service we are assured of God's love for us and we share in remembering his death in Jesus which brings to us that peace which the world cannot give.