



Worship at home'

Sunday June 30th 2024



As we worship, we affirm our ongoing experience of the Spirit of God in our everyday lives, bringing healing and fullness of life.

Opening (based on Psalm 130)

Wait for the Lord, like those who hope in God's mercy.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Watch for God, like those who eagerly await the morning.

We watch for God, whose power redeems us.

Hear God's hopeful word, like those who long for pardon.

Sing praise to God and rejoice in God's love.

— adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009*, © 2008 Abingdon Press
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As we immerse ourselves in God's steadfast love, we are alert to the Spirit of God working in our world and our lives. However, sometimes we seek God's help and do not seem to find the answers we are looking for. The Scripture stories today raise some age-old questions about sickness and death.

*Why do bad things happen
to good people?*

Why did I get cancer?

*Why do some people get better
and not others?*

If I pray hard enough, will God cure me?

**Why would a
loving God
allow death
and suffering?**



What does "enough" faith look like?

**What other questions do you have
around illness, death, and healing?**

Mark 5:21-43

Jesus got into the boat again and went back to the other side of the lake, where a large crowd gathered around him on the shore. Then a leader of the local synagogue, whose name was Jairus, arrived. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet, pleading fervently with him. "My little daughter is dying," he said. "Please come and lay your hands on her; heal her so she can live." Jesus went with him, and all the people followed, crowding around him. A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding. She had suffered a great deal from many doctors, and over the years she had spent everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she had gotten worse. She had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe. For she thought to herself, "If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed." Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could feel in her body that she had been healed of her terrible condition. Jesus

realized at once that healing power had gone out from him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my robe?" His disciples said to him, "Look at this crowd pressing around you. How can you ask, 'Who touched me?'" But he kept on looking around to see who had done it. Then the frightened woman, trembling at the realization of what had happened to her, came and fell to her knees in front of him and told him what she had done. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over."

While he was still speaking to her, messengers arrived from the home of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue. They told him, "Your daughter is dead. There's no use troubling the Teacher now." But Jesus overheard them and said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid. Just have faith." Then Jesus stopped the crowd and wouldn't let anyone go with him except Peter, James, and John (the brother of James). When they came to the home of the synagogue leader,

Jesus saw much commotion and weeping and wailing. He went inside and asked, "Why all this commotion and weeping? The child isn't dead; she's only asleep." The crowd laughed at him. But he made them all leave, and he took the girl's father and mother and his three disciples into the room where the girl was lying. Holding her hand, he said to her, ["Talitha,

koum,"] which means "Little girl, get up!" And the girl, who was twelve years old, immediately stood up and walked around! They were overwhelmed and totally amazed. Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell anyone what had happened, and then he told them to give her something to eat.

New Living Translation

These two stories of healing are interwoven: a woman bleeding for twelve years, and a twelve-year-old girl. Twelve was a symbolic number in Jewish religion, representing wholeness and the completion of God's purpose. In each of these stories we find a restoration to wholeness and a reconciliation of relationship. The bleeding woman was made unclean by her chronic condition, outcast from her community; the little girl was unwell to the point of death: both were healed by an encounter with Jesus. They were offered new life in Christ.

The word *heal* literally means *to make whole*, implying completeness, without division or brokenness. We usually want to interpret this to mean physical healing, or cure.



Jesus invites us into a life of wholeness which goes beyond the physical aspects of being made well. A life in Christ brings restoration of relationship, with God, with others, and within ourselves. This may or may not mean a fixing of the physical ailments we suffer as human beings in our lives on earth – our bodies are finite and subject to the natural processes of aging and illness. In Christ we are made complete, whole, even with the limitations of this earthly life. We are offered new life, in a way that transcends our somewhat fragile human state.

THE POWER OF THE
PRESENCE OF GOD IS
NECESSARY TO BRING
wholeness and wellness
WHERE THERE IS
sorrow and brokenness

**When have you found the
hope of new possibilities
in Christ?**

**What might wholeness look
like ... in your life?**

**... in the lives of those you
care about and pray for?**

*Healing and wholeness are about the mystery of God's love
impinging on the mess of our lives*

- Roger M Vaughan

Prayer

Spend some time praying for those who are unwell, in pain, outcast, who feel hopeless and forgotten. Ask God for healing and restoration to wholeness, whatever that might mean in that situation.

Holy God, Creator of Life,
you call us out of our dark places,
offering us the grace of new life.
When we see nothing but hopelessness,
you surprise us with the breath of your spirit.
Call us out of our complacency and routines,
set us free from our self-imposed bonds,
and fill us with your spirit of life, compassion, and peace,
In the name of Jesus, your anointed one, we pray. **Amen.**

~ Rev. Nancy J. <http://ruminari.wordpress.com/>



Benediction

We go this week full of hope,
knowing that Christ's touch can heal us
and restore us to wholeness in God,
through the power of God's spirit
which then empowers us to reach out to others in love.
We go in peace, to know fullness of life in God.
Amen