

*June 14, 2005*

***SERVICE  
OF  
HEALING & COMMUNION***

*Institute for Worship Studies  
DWS704 - Kappa Class*

## GATHERING

### Call to Worship

One: The God of heaven has made a home on earth,  
All: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.  
One: The highest in all creation lives among the least,  
All: Christ journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.  
One: Come now, all who thirst  
All: and drink the water of life.  
One: Come now, all who hunger  
All: and be filled with good things.  
One: Come now all who seek  
All: and be warmed by the fire of God's love.

Song: *Jesus Calls Us Here (NEITLTON)*

### Invocation

## WORD

Scripture reading: Two Worlds of Experience  
(from Psalm 42 and Psalm 23)

As the deer pants for flowing streams, so longs my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God,, for the Living God.

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures.**

When shall I come and behold the face of God?

My tears have been my food day and night,  
while people say to me, "Where is your God?"

**The Lord leads me beside still waters and restores my soul. The  
Lord leads me in paths of righteousness  
for the sake of God's name.**

My soul is downcast within me.

I say to God, my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me?"

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I fear no evil, for thou art with me.**

**Thy rod and thy staff comfort me.**

Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Musical response: *Bless the Lord, My Soul (Taize)*

Scripture reading: Psalm 103

• *Jesus Calls Us Here (NETTLETON)*

Jesus calls us here to meet Him,  
as through word and song and prayer.  
We affirm God's promised presence,  
where His people live and care.  
Praise the God who keeps His promise,  
praise the Son who calls us friends.  
Praise the Spirit, who among us,  
to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess Him Word of Life and Lord of all,  
Sharer of our flesh and frailness, saving all who fail and fall.  
Tell His holy human story, tell His tales that all may hear,  
Tell the world that Christ in glory came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other; found in Him are no divides.  
Race and clash and sex and language,  
such are barriers He derides.  
Join the hands of friend and stranger,  
join the hands of age and youth.  
Join the faithful and the doubter  
in their common search for truth.

Jesus calls us to His table, rooted firm in time and space,  
Where the church, in earth and heaven  
finds a common meeting place.  
Share the bread and wine, His body,  
share the love of which we sing,  
Share the feast for saints and sinners  
hosted by our Lord and King.

• *Bless the Lord, My Soul (Taize)*

Bless the Lord, my soul,  
And bless His holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul,  
Who leads me into life.

Musical response: *Bless the Lord, My Soul*

Scripture reading:

**Isaiah 53:1** *Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground, ~ he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ~ He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. 4 Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ~ But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed..*

**Mark 10:46** *They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar was sitting by the roadside. 4Z When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 4~ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ~12 Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." 5~Q So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ~j Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." ~ Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.*

## **Encountering Healing**

Small Group Intercession

Confession:

One: Loving God,

we recognize that we so often distance ourselves from You.

It is sometimes hard for us to understand  
the pattern of Your healing.

Sometimes it feels as though You don't respond at all  
and we worry about our lack of faith and our worthiness.

If we no longer dare to ask things of You,  
fearing we will be disappointed,

**All: Forgive us, O God.**

One: If we would rather keep distant

so that You cannot call us away from our illness or our guilt,  
because it is easier to be cared for than to take up our beds and walk,

**All: Forgive us, O God.**

One: If we are choosing to be victims forever as a way of life,  
giving power to those who have wounded us, rather than to You,

**All: Forgive us, O God.**

One: When we turn our faces away from the possibility of Your  
gifts, or assume that they are ours alone,

**All: Forgive us and open our lives to Your renewal and healing. Lord,  
bring new life where we are worn and tired; new love, where we have  
turned hard-hearted; forgiveness, where we feel hurt and where we  
have wounded; and the joy and freedom of Your Holy Spirit where we  
are prisoners of ourselves.**

*(We observe a short time of silence)*

Words of Assurance:

One: The Lord is merciful and gracious... [Psalm 103:8-12]  
To all and to each,  
where regret is real,  
Jesus pronounces His pardon  
and grants us the right to begin again.  
With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God,  
rich in mercy, abundant in love,  
forgives you all your sin  
and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen!**

Passing of the Peace

## TABLE

*[All are invited to join us in the Sanctuary for a Eucharistic Celebration and a time of  
singing praises.]*

## SENDING

[Readings based on material from the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*. Wild Goose  
Publications, 2001; Patricia Shelley's *Let All Within Us Praise*. Faith & Life  
Press, 1996; Hymnal Supplement. 1991. GIA Publications, 1991; D. McRae-  
McMahon's *In This 1-four: Liturgies for Pausing*. SPCK, 2001; *Stages on the  
Way*. GIA Publications, 2000.)