

# Hope & Healing



St Aidan's Uniting Church  
4th February 2024  
Epiphany 5

## Prayers

Compassionate God,  
you have called us to be agents of healing  
wherever we see hurt in our world,  
but all too often we find this simply too hard.

When we confuse healing with cure  
and either dismiss its reality  
or see it as the role of those who have studied health care  
**God, our friend and companion,  
forgive us.**

When we place rules around the healing that is offered  
and so create harm for the vulnerable;  
**God, our friend and companion,  
forgive us.**

When we want to keep your healing  
to people we know  
rather than being willing to take it  
to other peoples and communities,  
**God, our friend and companion,  
forgive us.**

Help us to recommit ourselves to walking with you,  
help us to recommit ourselves to sharing your love.  
**Amen.**

## Words of Assurance

God invites all to receive healing –  
and that includes you!  
Remember, you are loved  
and you are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer of Intercession

Loving God,

we pray for the many different people  
who need healing at this time,  
those we know about and those we don't;  
those whose healing is about physical or mental health  
and those whose need for healing  
is just as important but harder to measure.

We pray for those like the man with the unclean spirit,  
who find healing unexpectedly  
in the midst of their worshiping community,  
and we pray for the members of this congregation  
who need to know your healing touch at this time.

We pray for those whom we encounter as family or friends  
who cannot do what is important to them  
or be the person they are called to be  
because of the healing they need.

We pray for the many needs in our wider communities  
that sometimes feel overwhelming  
as the people crowd in to call for a response  
from the one who offers your healing touch.

We pray for the many different healers  
who take many different forms –  
health professionals who offer care  
to promote physical and mental health,  
counsellors who support the emotional recovery  
and all who offer spiritual healing –  
we pray they too may be sustained in their ministry.

Most of all, we pray for those  
whose need for healing  
means they have been rejected by their communities  
and for whom one thing  
has led to another source of pain.

May they all know your healing touch  
and experience your compassion in their lives.

**Amen**

## Benediction & Blessing

We go out into the world  
not to have pat answers  
and an easy life,  
but to walk alongside  
and with the struggle  
for all who look for healing.