



EASTER

In the Hands of the Healer

Participating in the healing power of the risen Christ.

“The hands of the King are the hands of a healer, and so shall the rightful king be known.”

– JRR Tolkein, *The Return of the King*

“The church is given a unique role in healing... Only the church, in her worship or in her healing ministries, will be able to directly confess God as healer and practice healing prayer in the name of Jesus. This is a particular gift to the community of believers, of course, but it also performs a service to the world as people of God name the healer also for others, inviting their participation in a world broader than one they might otherwise have known and eliciting praise and response to healing that continues and completes the healing event.”

– Frederick Gaiser, *Healing in the Bible*

“I am the Lord, your healer.”

– Exodus 15:26

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This little guidebook is designed for individual, family, and small group use during the 2019 Easter season at Redeemer Anglican Church. It tracks with our Sermon Series In the Hands of the Healer - helping us, as a church family, to participate in the healing power of the risen Christ.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Week 1 | Healing & the Name of Jesus | Week 4 | Healing & Conflict |
| Week 2 | Healing & Our Community | Week 5 | Healing & the Common Good |
| Week 3 | Healing & Pride | | |



READ

For each week, there is a scripture passage assigned from the book of Acts.



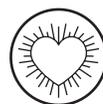
REFLECT

After reading the passage, take a moment to reflect on what you have read. There are a handful of questions provided to stimulate reflection (and discussion with your Small Group). Feel free to write down your thoughts in the space provided.



PRAY

The time of prayer follows a simple liturgy: a call to prayer, a time of confession and forgiveness, a time of supplication (making requests to God), the Lord's Prayer, and a benediction. This liturgy can be prayed alone, with others in your household, and with your Small Group.



ACT

When we truly receive the good news of the Gospel, we are motivated to embrace new habits and extend the good news to others. The love of God to us in Jesus overflows within us and spills out to our neighbors. Each week there are suggested actions that help us receive, embody, and extend the Gospel.

WHAT IS THE SEASON OF EASTER?

Easter is more than just one day! The season of Easter (also called Eastertide) is a 50 day celebration that runs from Easter Sunday through to the day of Pentecost (the resurrection of Jesus to the birth of His church). This is a season of joy, gratitude, and reflection on how the resurrection of Jesus can become the centerpiece of our lives and change everything for us in this life and in the life to come. During this season we, as a church family, select a particular aspect of our resurrection life to examine together that we might grow deeper in our love and practice of following Jesus. This Spring we will examine the theme of healing - learning together how we are to participate in the healing power of the risen Christ.

WHY THE THEME OF HEALING?

We and our neighbors are in need of the healing that Jesus offers to us. Christ Jesus has risen from the dead, inaugurating His New Creation, which is breaking out and will continue to break out all over the world until our Lord returns to finally renew and restore all things. We live in the tension of the in-between time - the already-and-the-not-yet. During this time we are to pray for healing - while knowing that it can only come in-part in this lifetime, but will come in-full one glorious day. In order to navigate this tension, we need wisdom and maturity, so that our prayers do not lead us into foolish optimism or resigned cynicism. In this life we will have both trouble and healing - and so we must learn to participate in both with our God.

WHY THE BOOK OF ACTS?

The New Testament book of Acts is a record of the early church in her formative first years. The cultural climate in which the men and women of Acts ministered is not all-together different from our own. They lived and worked in a religiously pluralistic society that was resistant and often hostile to the Gospel of Jesus. It was in this climate that the church was to bring to bear the healing power of the death and resurrection of Christ on the wounds of their neighbors and cities.

SONGS OF PRAISE

BE MY THOU VISION

Be Thou my vision O Lord of my heart
Nought be all else to me, save Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word
I ever with Thee, and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father and I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance now and always
Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven, after victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all

LORD I NEED YOU

Lord, I come, I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
Without You I fall apart
You're the One that guides my heart

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You*

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
Where You are, Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You*

WEEK 1 | Healing & the Name of Jesus



Acts 3:1-16

READ



REFLECT

• Imagine yourself in the place of the different characters in this story. What would it have felt like to be the man who was lame from birth? Peter and John? The bystanders?

• What other "names/sources of healing" are we tempted to place our faith?

• Healing in Jesus' name is not magic or a secret formula for success. Rather, "praying in Jesus' name is to pray in the spirit and fullness of the Gospel, to pray in faith that God is, in Christ, bringing life out of death... Thus to pray in the name of Jesus is not to pray for our will alone, but that God's will be done."

- Where are you seeking Christ's healing for yourself and for others?

NOTES:



PRAY

Call | If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **-Colossians 3:1**
[Optional: Sing one of the Songs of Praise found on page 5 of this guidebook]

Confession | Confessing aloud our sinful tendencies to...
• Look for temporary, partial solutions for our pain rather than seek full healing in Jesus.
• Search for healing from other sources than Jesus.
• Give in to resigned cynicism that we will never be healed.

Forgiveness | He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.
-1 Peter 2:24

Supplication | *[Bringing our specific requests to Christ Jesus who desires to heal us]*

Lord's Prayer | *[It is suggested that, if prayed as a household or small group, the members hold hands during the Lord's Prayer]*

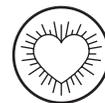
*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.*

*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.

Benediction | Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen.
-Ephesians 3:20,21



ACT

• What is one part of your life where you have been tempted to believe that you will never be healed? Talk to God and perhaps a few other people about it.
• Pray, in faith, for healing in the name of Jesus. Remember, your faith is not believing that God will produce particular, expected results; but rather that the same God who raised Christ from the dead has both the ability and desire to heal you. In praying for healing - you are simply and humbly seeking His will for your life.

WEEK 2 | Healing & Community



Acts 5:12-16

READ



REFLECT

- What strikes you first about this passage? Why?
- Why do you think some people were afraid to join the apostles?
- How might this story be a vision for what the Redeemer community could be here in our city?

NOTES:



PRAY

Call | If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

- Colossians 3:1

[Optional: Sing one of the Songs of Praise found on page 5 of this guidebook]

Confession | Confessing aloud our sinful tendencies to...

- Desire for our faith to be less public and more private.
- Desire for the church to a community for those who are already spiritually, physically, and emotionally healthy, rather than a place of healing for the sick.

Forgiveness | He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

- 1 Peter 2:24

Supplication | [Bringing our specific requests to Christ Jesus who desires to heal us]

Lord's Prayer | [It is suggested that, if prayed as a household or small group, the members hold hands during the Lord's Prayer]

*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.*

Benediction | Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen.

- Ephesians 3:20,21



ACT

- Have you felt like there are certain parts of yourself that are not "cleaned up" enough to bring to your church family? If so, test the waters by sharing these "less than perfect" parts of yourself with some others in our parish. Ask for their prayers for healing.
- Who do you know in your neighborhood or at work that is in need of healing? Consider bringing them with you to small group or church.

WEEK 3 | Healing & Pride



Acts 14:8-18

READ



REFLECT

- With which of these three types of characters do you most identify: the lame man, Barnabas and Paul, or the crowds of people? Why?
- “There is always the tendency to confuse the power that heals with the healer himself.” In what ways are we still tempted to elevate spiritual celebrities?
- How do Barnabas and Paul respond to the celebrity that is being forced upon them and what might we learn from their example?

NOTES:



PRAY

Call | If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. - **Colossians 3:1**
[Optional: Sing one of the Songs of Praise found on page 5 of this guidebook]

Confession | Confessing aloud our sinful tendencies to...

- Idolize spiritual celebrities/gurus.
- Pridefully believe that our own faith has healed us.

Forgiveness | He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.
- **1 Peter 2:24**

Supplication | *[Bringing our specific requests to Christ Jesus who desires to heal us]*

Lord's Prayer | *[It is suggested that, if prayed as a household or small group, the members hold hands during the Lord's Prayer]*

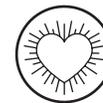
*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.*

*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.*

Benediction | Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen.
-**Ephesians 3:20,21**



ACT

- Have you taken credit for something where the credit truly belongs to God? If so, set the record straight.
- Is there any pride in your heart - where you believe that your faith has somehow led to health and healing? If so, confess it to someone in the church and ask them to pray for you.
- Are there any spiritual celebrities or gurus who you follow? (Podcasts you listen to, conferences you attend, authors whose books you always read, etc.) If so, thank the Lord for using them in your life, turn, and begin to give yourself more fully to the simple and humble way of following Jesus as a part of his church.

WEEK 4 | Healing & Conflict



Acts 16:16-24

READ



REFLECT

• There are two forms of conflict happening in this story of healing. The first is with the demon-possessed slave girl and the second is with her owners and the local magistrates.

- What do you notice about how the slave girl was healed?
- What do you notice about how the owners and local authorities react?

• In this story, we see that healing does not always bring peace and often comes at a cost. How does this challenge our imaginations of what it means to bring the healing of Christ to others?

NOTES:



PRAY

Call | If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. - **Colossians 3:1**

[Optional: Sing one of the Songs of Praise found on page 5 of this guidebook]

Confession | Confessing aloud our sinful tendencies to...
• Be fearful of practicing our faith in such a way that it provokes conflict from others.
• Be content to leave others in bondage because seeking their healing would mean risking our own wellbeing.

Forgiveness | He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.
- **1 Peter 2:24**

Supplication | [Bringing our specific requests to Christ Jesus who desires to heal us]

Lord's Prayer | [It is suggested that, if prayed as a household or small group, the members hold hands during the Lord's Prayer]

*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.*

Benediction | Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen.
- **Ephesians 3:20,21**



ACT

• Who do you know that needs freedom? Seek them out and pray for their healing, even if it costs you something.

WEEK 5 | Healing & the Common Good



Acts 28:1-10

READ



REFLECT

- What is the role of hospitality in this story? Who is giving and who is receiving?
- How did the Christians' engagement with the local people build a bridge by which the healing power of the Gospel could travel?
- Who are the benefactors in this story?
- How is this story a model or vision for the potential that exists for the church to partner with non-Christian people or institutions for the common good?

NOTES:



PRAY

Call | If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

-Colossians 3:1

[Optional: Sing one of the Songs of Praise found on page 5 of this guidebook]

- Confession** | Confessing aloud our sinful tendencies to...
- Resist the kindness of people who do not share our beliefs.
 - Believe that God will only heal those who already have faith in Him.
 - Seek only our good and not the good of all.

Forgiveness | He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

-1 Peter 2:24

Supplication | *[Bringing our specific requests to Christ Jesus who hears our cries.]*

Lord's Prayer | *[It is suggested that, if prayed as a household or small group, the members hold hands during the Lord's Prayer]*

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.*

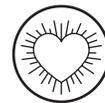
*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

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.*

Benediction | Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen

-Ephesians 3:20,21



ACT

- Who are the non-Christians in your life that have been kind to you or are seeking to extend hospitality to you? Receive it!
- Who are the non-Christians in your life that are in need of healing? Pray for it - even before they put their faith in Jesus.



REDEEMER

ANGLICAN CHURCH