

Service of Anointing for Cancer (at home)

First Mennonite Church, Denver, Colorado Vern Rempel

Introduction

Let us begin this service in a spirit of thanksgiving. We all need all the grace we may be able to call forth among us.

Healing stories comprise one-fifth of the gospel texts. The ministry of healing was integral to the work of Jesus and the N.T. churches.

Today we want to base our actions on that Biblical witness. I do not consider this a guarantee of physical health nor a replacement of other medical arts. But it is a sign by the one receiving the oil and by those gathered that physical illness is not something that breaks our community with God and each other, but rather becomes the occasion for renewal of our communal and spiritual ties. We believe that this community of love and support makes for health so far as it is possible within the limits and boundaries of the finite world in which we live. We believe it gives us a taste of the final wholeness that we all hope for and believe we have in God.

The sign of oil is ancient. It stands as a symbol of the presence of God's Spirit which we pour out for each other as the community of Christ. I am using olive oil as a concrete, historical connection to the healing ministry of Jesus in eastern Mediterranean lands. This oil will be placed on _____'s forehead.

The candle is light. Light is a sign of the eternal God, whose light is never extinguished and who brightens all our darkness.

Prayer

Affirmation of faith

Mennonite Hymnal 720

Song

Sometimes a light surprises

Mennonite Hymnal 253

Scripture readings

Galatians 6:1-10

(A service such as this can become a time when all of us are invited to a renewal of our love for God and our neighbor. As an encouragement to that, hear Gal. 6:1-10)

Luke 5:17-26

(Hear also now an example of healing from the life of Jesus)

Silence

Anointing with oil

I anoint you... into the care of our gracious God.

(Use this sentence if appropriate): _____ has been receiving very welcome news recently concerning her physical health. We are grateful to God for this and for all the goodness that comes into our lives.

Laying on of hands and prayer

Greeting one another

Benediction song

The love of God

Mennonite Hymnal 538