

Anointing for Drug Addiction

First Mennonite Church, Denver, Colorado
Vern Rempel, Pastor

Gathering

We are gathered here this evening to anoint _____ and his family with oil as a prayer for healing. With this prayer we are making spiritual affirmations. There is no guarantee of any effect from this prayer. Rather, we affirm connection. We affirm our connection to each other, human touching human. We affirm our connection to the deep ways of the earth: stream, soil, sky, tree. We affirm our connection to the Spirit who is love, the Spirit who cuts open inflamed wounds and exposes them to wholesome light and air, the Spirit who patiently re-knits muscle and ligament in our bodies and souls, the Spirit who roars and whispers with the implications and intuitions of life. May this service of anointing renew the sources of healing in us all.

Let us pray: Spirit of Christ, turn our actions this evening into holy acts of healing and affirmation. Grant us a sense of strength and connection. We ask for and acknowledge your presence as we face these wounds and fears. Amen.

Naming

Let us begin with a brief time of naming what we bring to this moment: our hopes, fears, strength and injury. You may do this silently or audibly.

Readings

James 5:13-16

"The hidden singer," *Collected Poems* by Wendell Berry, p. 207

Psalm 142

Anointing with oil

Anointing with oil in the name of the Trinity for _____ and each family member

Presentation of the vessel

Prayer

Let us now enter into a time of prayer for _____, for other family members, and for all that we are and bring to this moment. You may pray silently or audibly.

Hymn *Hymnal: A Worship Book* 377 "Healer of our every ill"

Benediction

May God knit up your frayed ends
Let her open and cleanse your wounds
Let her work to reconcile your warring members
In God's holy forest, observe the green dark shadows
Notice the flecks of sky
Listen. Do you hear her music? Listen. Do you hear it? Amen.