

## Service of Anointing for Grave Illness

**First Mennonite Church, Denver, Colorado**  
**Vern Rempel, Pastor**

### Introduction

Where two are three are gathered in the name of Christ, there also will be the Spirit of Christ. *Ubi caritas et amor, deus ibi est.* Where charity and love are, there God is. It is with these understandings and assurances that we gather today. Let us join together in a service of prayer for our dear \_\_\_\_\_, who is a child of God.

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.

This service is a prayer for wholeness in the presence of illness. This is no guarantee of physical health, nor does it replace 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.

### Affirmation of faith

<b>Hymn</b>	All creatures of our God and King	HWB 48
<b>Prayer of confession</b>		HWB 699
<b>Hymn</b>	Amazing grace	HWB 143
<b>Scripture reading</b>	I Corinthians 13	
<b>Silence</b>		

**Anointing with oil**

\_\_\_\_\_, I anoint you with oil in the name of God our Creator, Jesus our Savior, and the Spirit who dwells among us. May your weakness be turned to strength, your sorrow to joy, your illness to wholeness, harmony, and peace, as you commit your body, mind, and spirit into the care of our gracious God.

**Laying on of hands and prayer****Greeting one another****Benediction song**

My shepherd will supply

HWB 589

*[Refreshments follow.]*