

## Anointing for Miscarriage

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

*Healing rite for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on the occasion of loss of pregnancy.  
Held in their home.*

#### Opening statement

We gather this evening to grieve the loss of life, the loss of a developing infant. \_\_\_\_\_, our sister, who was carrying new life in her womb, is no longer pregnant. She and our brother, \_\_\_\_\_, have experienced a rude interruption in their hopes and plans for parenthood.

Our gathering this evening and these acts of worship are intended for recognition of this loss, and as a prayer for healing and restoration of hope.

#### Prayer

Extemporaneous prayer for \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, child lost, family, friends.

#### Sharing

Words from those present

#### Water Ritual

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus lifted up the cup of water as a sign of hospitality and sharing. We, your family and your church, offer this cup to you as a symbol of our support for you as a community of Christ. We reach out to you and embrace you even as you reach out to us. May God grant you care and support through all who gather 'round you, those present and friends and family wherever they may be.  
(\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ drink from cup)

#### Oil Ritual

Oil is an ancient symbol of healing and recognition. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, we recognize your loss with you today. We pray with you for healing and restoration of hope. The application of this oil to your foreheads is a symbol of our prayer for you. May God grant you peace. May Christ hold you in his arms. May the Spirit weave together the torn places of your hearts.  
(anointing with oil)

#### Prayer

(from *Hymnal: A Worship Book* 745)

Hidden God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives.

**O God, hear our prayer.**

You are present in our lives, bringing new life out of death, hope out of despair.

**O God, hear our prayer.**

We thank you that you do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole.

**O God, hear our prayer.**

Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives,

and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit,  
that we may know the joy of your love, and rest in your peace.

**O God, hear our prayer.**

***All: AMEN***

**Song:** "Cast thy burden upon the Lord"

**Benediction**

Out of loneliness, may you find companionship

Out of sorrow, may you find peace

May the Spirit of God go with you now and in the days to come. Amen