

# The Anointing Service

## *Anointing & Healing*

Anointing with oil has long been associated with the covenantal relationships of God's people, and as a form of the church's ministry to the sick.

Genesis 5: 1-32	Ex. 29: 7	Mark 6: 5
Genesis 12: 1-3	Deut. 33: 24	Mark 7: 1-13
Mark 14: 24	1Sam.10: 1-9	James 5: 13-18
1Cor. 11: 25	Psalms 23: 5	
	Isaiah 1:6	

In a similar way, the laying on of hands has long signified the consecration of persons.

Numbers 27: 23	Deut. 34: 9	Mark 6: 5
Luke 4: 40		Acts 6:6

In faith, we believe:

- God intends for us to be spiritually whole,*
- spiritual wholeness is the basis of sound health,*
- the power to restore wholeness & health*  
*resides only in God.*
- only in and through Christ is wholeness available.*

Anointing bears witness that we can only truly experience wholeness as our relationship to God is open and unencumbered.

It expresses our faith that even when a person must bear illness or loss of bodily function, this person's open relationship to God will sustain them.

It recognizes that confession, forgiveness, and restoration of relationship are essential to wholeness.

### *Preparation*

An anointing for healing is not an alternative to the care given by physicians, nurses, counselors, or other professional healers. It is a cooperative experience that encourages all gifts of healing that God has shared with humanity.

But an anointing also moves beyond the most skilled human talent. Because, above all, this is an occasion for repentance and confession before God, forgiveness and reconciliation between brothers and sisters in Christ, and acceptance of and dedication to God's will.

### *The Service*

Read:

Mark 6: 12-13

Acts 5: 1-16

James 5: 14-16

In the Epistle of James we read that we are to confess our sins to one another and pray for one another that we might be healed. We believe that God wills our wholeness in body, mind, and spirit.

\_\_\_\_\_, is there anything in your life which you believe might prevent you from receiving a full measure of God's grace?

(Pause and give the person being anointed time to make any statement this person may wish to make.)

We are comforted in the assurance that "if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

We believe, \_\_\_\_\_, that those things which may be forgotten, or which may be too deep for words, are not beyond God's forgiving love.

May God, who know us completely, now bless you through this service. \_\_\_\_\_, upon

- your confession of faith in the love and power of God,*
- your willingness to commit your life completely to*  
*God in sickness or in health,*
- and your desire to live your life to God's glory...*

(A few drops of oil are placed on the fingers of the officiant, after which she or he will gently touch the head of the person being anointed three times -- marking a cross on the forehead each time, once at the mention of each of the following purposes of anointing.)

I now anoint you with oil in the name of the Lord,

- for the forgiveness of your sins,*
- for the strengthening of your faith,*
- and for the restoration of wholeness to your body*  
*according to the will of God.*

### *The Laying On Of Hands & Prayer*

(Those conducting the service shall lightly lay their hands together on the head of the sick person and each shall offer a brief prayer.)

### *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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen."*

### *Closing & Encouragement*

(Following the prayer, brief words of encouragement may be spoken.)