

To Be Made Well

Four Friends

Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:18-26; Matthew 9:2-8

Compiled/written by Rev. Teresa Whetsel

Calls to Worship

L: To our world filled with brokenness and disease,

P: God brings healing!

L: To our world filled with loneliness and disappointment,

P: God brings joy!

L: People of God, shout for joy to the Lord.

P: Let us worship the Lord with gladness.

L: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;

P: His faithfulness continues through all generations.

<https://www.reformedworship.org/resource/surprising-streams-desert>

L: When Jesus returned to Capernaum, the house was full.

P: We come with the crowds, longing to hear good news.

L: Friends carried a man who could not walk, trusting love would make a way.

P: We come carrying our own burdens and the burdens of those we love.

L: When the way was blocked, they opened the roof and lowered him down.

P: We come ready to trust God beyond obstacles and expectations.

L: Jesus saw their faith and spoke words of forgiveness and healing.

P: We come to hear words that restore and make us whole.

L: Today, Christ is in this place, ready to heal and forgive.

P: We gather in wonder and praise, giving glory to God.

All: Let us worship God together.

Written by Teresa Whetsel, with help from Chat GPT

L: Come, all who carry burdens, your own and those of others.

P: We come, trusting that God meets us here.

L: Friends tear open the roof to bring one in need to Jesus.

P: We come, believing love will find a way.

L: Jesus sees their faith and speaks words of forgiveness and healing.

P: We come, longing for wholeness of body, mind, and spirit.

L: Rise up, says Christ, and walk in new life.

P: We come to worship the One who restores us through grace and community.

Written by Rev. Jeff Lathrop

Opening Prayers

Lord, as we walked through the doors to this place of worship, we brought with us our cares and concerns, our joys and our sorrows. Touch our hearts and heal us, Lord. Make us ready to become your faithful disciples. AMEN.

https://ministrymatters.com/2020-05-25_worship_connection_proper_8_a/

Cure us, healing Christ, on this and every day of rest, that being restored in body, mind, and spirit, we may do what is good, learn what is helpful, and return to our daily work invigorated and inspired. Amen

https://ministrymatters.com/2018-04-28_prayer_helps_june_3_2018/

Loving God, You see faith not only in our words, but in our actions.
As we gather, open our hearts to trust you more deeply
and our lives to carry one another toward your healing grace.
Move among us today with forgiveness, mercy, and power,
that we may leave this place changed and praising you.
In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Written by Teresa Whetsel, with help from Chat GPT

Holy God,
In this time set apart, quiet our hearts and focus our minds on you.
Release us from distractions, assumptions, and fear,
so we may receive what you are doing among us.
By your grace, speak truth that challenges us,
offer mercy that renews us,
and shape us into people who reflect your love.
We pray this through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Written by Teresa Whetsel, with help from Chat GPT

Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of friends who carry us when we cannot move on our own. We confess that there are times when we feel paralyzed by fear, guilt, or despair, and times when we hesitate to carry others because the way feels too difficult. Speak your word of forgiveness and healing into our lives. Strengthen us to rise when you call and make us a community that breaks through barriers with love. Send us out to bear hope to a world in need, trusting that your grace always makes a way. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our healer and redeemer. Amen.

Written by Rev. Jeff Lathrop

Children's Message Ideas

A Home for Bird

This is a beautifully written story of an ordinary toad who goes out of his way to help a new friend.



Link to YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQqmt7Zhp2k>

Faith Talk Questions:

1. Name a time when you have helped someone in need? How did you know of their needs? What did you do to help?
2. How did helping someone else make you feel? Why do we help others? Read Matthew 25:35-39 to hear Jesus' words about helping those in need.
3. The story of the four friends who brought the paralyzed man to Jesus is one story of helping others. Can you name other Bible stories that teach us how to help people in need? Read Luke 10:25-37 for one example.

Found at: <https://cecestorypath.wordpress.com/2024/09/15/a-home-for-bird/>

Grab a Corner of the Blanket

Object: A blanket. *(If a full-sized blanket is used, you might need to fold it in half to make a pallet.)*

This morning, I have a blanket. I am going to spread the blanket out on the floor and ask "Johnny" to lie down on the blanket. Next, I will ask a child to stand at each of the four corners of the blanket. *(Choose children to take their positions as described.)*

Our friend "Johnny" has broken his leg, and we need to get him to the doctor. If I were to ask the children who are standing at the corners of the blanket to grab a corner of the blanket and carry "Johnny" out the door, down the street and into the doctor's office, that would be difficult, wouldn't it? Do you think you could do it? Would you be willing to try?

Well, let us suppose that you can do it, but when you get to the doctor's office, there are so many people waiting to get in to see the doctor that you can't even get up to the door, much less get into the office. Then you notice that the doctor's office has some stairs that lead up to the roof. If you could carry "Johnny" up to the roof, perhaps you could make a hole in the roof and lower him down into the doctor's office. Do you think you could do it? Would you be willing to try?

Did you know that this is almost exactly what happened when a group of men wanted to take a friend to Jesus? The Bible tells us that four men were carrying a paralyzed man to Jesus. They knew that if they could just get him to Jesus that Jesus could heal him, but they couldn't get to where Jesus was because of the large crowd. The four men carried their friend up to the roof and made an opening in the roof. Then they lowered the man down through the roof to where Jesus was. When Jesus saw how much faith these four men had, he not only healed the paralyzed man, but he also even forgave him of all his sins.

You and I have friends who need to come to Jesus. It may not be easy, but if each of us will do our part, together we can succeed. We may meet obstacles, but we must never give up. We must hold on to our corner of the blanket and carry on until we bring them to Jesus.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we all have friends who need your healing and your forgiveness. May we be faithful to grab a corner of the blanket and bring them to you. Amen.

<https://sermons4kids.com/sermons/grab-a-corner-of-the-blanket>

Pastoral Prayers

Merciful God,
You have heard the prayers we have spoken aloud
and the ones we hold quietly in our hearts.
We place them now into your care,
trusting your wisdom, your mercy, and your timing.
Bring healing where bodies and spirits are worn down,
forgiveness where guilt weighs heavily,
and hope where the way forward feels unclear.
Hold all those we have named before you today,
and all those we carry but could not put into words.

We entrust ourselves and one another to you,
as we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us, saying:

Our Father...

Written by Teresa Whetsel, with help from Chat GPT

Faithful God,
You have drawn us together as one people,
and you have heard the prayers we have offered for ourselves and for the world.
Receive these prayers as signs of our trust in you
and our care for one another.
Strengthen those who are weary,
surround those who are suffering,
and renew all who long for wholeness.

Teach us to be a community
that carries one another in love
and reflects your healing grace in our daily lives.
Now, with hearts joined as one,
we pray the words Jesus gave us, saying:

Our Father...

Written by Teresa Whetsel, with help from Chat GPT

Gracious God,
We have lifted before you the needs of your people,
and we stand in wonder at your power to bring new life.
Work in ways we can see and in ways we cannot,
bringing healing, forgiveness, and restoration
according to your loving will.
Where answers come quickly, give us gratitude;
where waiting remains, give us patience and trust.

Receive all the prayers of this congregation,
spoken and unspoken,
and shape us into people who live in praise of you.
With confidence in your mercy,
we now pray together as Jesus taught us:

Our Father...

Written by Teresa Whetsel, with help from Chat GPT

Offertory Prayers

Generous God,
All that we have comes from you.
Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and trust.
Use them to bring healing, forgiveness, and hope
to those in need near and far.
Bless both the gifts and the givers,
that through them your love may be made known.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Written by Teresa Whetsel, with help from Chat GPT

Faithful God,
You invite us to take part in what you are doing in the world.
As we offer these gifts, we offer ourselves as well.
Use what has been given to remove barriers,
to restore dignity, and to make room for grace.
May our generosity reflect our faith in you,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Loving God,
You gather us as one body and call us to care for one another.
Receive these offerings and send them forth
to strengthen the weak, lift the burdened,
and proclaim good news in word and deed.
May these gifts serve your purposes
and draw many to glorify you.
Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Written by Teresa Whetsel, with help from Chat GPT

Benedictions

May you have Spirit-filled friends
Who would dig through a thatched roof for you
And bring you into the presence of Jesus.
And may you hear Christ say to you,
"Pick up your mat and walk!"

Feasting on the Word Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 Pg.74

Go now in the grace of Jesus Christ.
Your sins are forgiven, and your lives are made new.
Rise, take what you have been given,
and live in ways that bring glory to God.
Go in peace. Amen.

Written by Teresa Whetsel, with help from ChatGPT

Go into the world, trusting the power of God at work among you.
Carry one another in love,
remove barriers where you can,
and make room for God's healing grace.
May the presence of Christ go with you,
now and always. Amen.

Written by Teresa Whetsel, with help from ChatGPT

Go forth with confidence,
knowing that God goes before you,
Christ walks beside you,
and the Holy Spirit gives you strength.
May your lives reflect faith that acts,
hope that restores,
and love that gives glory to God.
Amen.

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Hymns/Songs

UMH 261 Lord of the Dance

UMH 265 O Christ, the Healer, We have
Come

UMH 263 When Jesus the Healer Passed
Through Galilee

UMH 340 Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and
Needy

UMH 57 O For a Thousand Tongues to
Sing

UMH 399 Take My Life and Let It Be

UMH 389 Freely, Freely

UMH 371 I Stand Amazed

UMH 526 What a Friend We Have in
Jesus

UMH 479 Jesus Lover of my Soul

UMH 266 Heal Us, Emmanuel, Hear Our
Prayer

Hymns/Songs cont.

TFWS 2151 I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me
TFWS 2139 Oh, I Know the Lord's Laid
His Hands on Me
TFWS 2175 Together We Serve

TFWS 2177 Wounded World that cries
for Healing
W&S 3142 I Love the Lord
W&S 3139 We Cannot Measure How
You Heal

Contemporary Songs

Jesus, Friend of Sinners
You Alone Can Rescue
Come As You Are
Brand New Day
Come Let Us Worship
Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)
Already Here
O Come to the Altar

Mark Hall Matthew West
Jonas Myrin Matt Redman
Ben Glover David Crowder Matt Maher
Paul Baloche Carl Cartee Don Poythress
Chris Tomlin Jesse Reeves
Chris Tomlin John Newton Louie Giglio
Gungor
Chris Brown Mack Brock Steven Furtick Wade Joye