

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROYAL OAK

NOVEMBER 15, 2023 | 7PM



*Spirituality | Service | Sharing*

At the ◊ you may stand in body or in spirit. Bold text is read or sung in unison.

## Opening<sup>1</sup>

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**All: who made heaven and earth.**

One: Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

**All: They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.**

## ◊Hymn #628

“We Cannot Measure How You Heal”

Text & Music ©1989 WGRG The Iona Community (Admin. GIA Publications)

## ◊Call to Confession<sup>2</sup>

One: Jesus said: “Ask and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

**All: For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.**

One: Friends in Christ, those who have no fear of God are like thorns that are thrown away. They will not allow themselves to be touched by love or handled even with care. But those who fear God will also trust God to do what is best for them. Like patients with a doctor, they will tell God where it hurts, and so allow the healing process to begin. In reverence for our God and with a teachable spirit, let us honestly offer our sinfulness for God to examine, confessing our need for the tender mercies of Jesus Christ.

## ◊Confession of Sin

One: Let us confess our sin together:

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

## ◊Declaration of Forgiveness

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

One: May the God of mercy, who forgives all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**All: Amen.**

## ◊Hymn #636

“Heal Me, Hands of Jesus”

Text: Michael Perry ©1982 Jubilate hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Co.)

## Prayer for Illumination

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, and prepare our hearts to accept your word. Silence in

us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**All: Amen.**

### **Scripture Readings**

First Reading	Isaiah 40:1-11	<i>Pew Bible, OT pg. 740</i>
Second Reading	Psalms 23	<i>Pew Bible, OT pg. 553</i>
Third Reading	Matthew 5:1-12a	<i>Pew Bible, NT pg. 4</i>

### **Message**

“The Healing Balm” *Lon Keuhn*

### **Moment of Reflection**

“There is a Balm in Gilead” *arr. Anne Marie David*

*“There is a Balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, there is a Balm in Gilead, to heal the sick soul.”*

©1997 Abingdon Press

### **Offering Our Lives to God**

One: I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

### **Intercession for Healing**

One: God, our creator, your will for us and for all your people is wholeness and salvation:

**All: have mercy on us.**

One: Jesus Christ, Son of God, you came that we might have life and have it in abundance:

**All: have mercy on us.**

One: Holy Spirit, dwelling within us, you make us temples of your presence:

**All: have mercy on us.**

One: To the triune God, the source of all love and all life, let us offer our prayers.

*A time of silence is kept after each petition.*

One: For all who are in need of healing ... Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: For all who are disabled by injury or illness ... Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: For all who are troubled by confusion or burdened by pain ... Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: For all whose increasing years bring weariness ... Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: For all about to undergo surgery ... Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: For all who cannot sleep ... Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: For all who practice the healing arts ... Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

*Time for silent prayers of intercession.*

One: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### **Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Oil**

One: Gracious God, source of all healing, in Jesus Christ you heal the sick and mend the broken, we bless you for this oil pressed from the fruits of the earth, given to us as a sign of healing and forgiveness, and of the fullness of life, you give. By your Spirit, come upon all who receive this ministry of compassion, that they may receive your healing touch and be made whole, to the glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

**All: Amen.**

*Those who wish are invited to come forward at this time to receive the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. If you would like the oil placed on your hand, please indicate that.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

One: Mighty God, you rise with healing in your wings, to scatter all enemies that assault us. As we wait in hope for the coming of that day when crying and pain shall be no more, help us by your Holy Spirit to receive your power into our lives and to trust in your eternal love, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Let us pray the prayer that Our Lord taught us:

**All: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

### **Blessing**

One: May the God of Hope fill you all with joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

1 Portions of today's liturgy were adapted from Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) *The Companion to the Book of Common Worship*. (Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 2018).

2 Slemmons, Timothy Matthew. *When Heaven Stands Open: Liturgical Elements for Reformed Worship*. (Cascade Books, an Imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2013).



*Our church is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers who are trained to provide high-quality confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.*