**Anointing and the Laying on of Hands**

**A Rite for Wholeness and Healing**

The texts which follow have been prepared for use in conjunction with the service of Proclamation and Prayer (page 206) or with the Service of Word and Holy Communion (page 209). They may be adapted for use in a regular service of worship in the church. It is appropriate on occasion to divide the rite and to do either the anointing or the laying on of hands.

**The Anointing**

*At the appointed time, those participating in the service will stand around the person or persons who will receive the rite of healing. When the oil has been prepared, the minister will lead in prayer saying:*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe:
you desire wholeness for all

and provide abundantly for every need.

Blessed are you, Jesus Christ, redeemer of the world:

you bore our pain and suffering

and shared our humanity.

Blessed are you, Holy Spirit, divine comforter:

your unfailing power gives strength

in the midst of our weakness.

Gracious God -- Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer:
we give you thanks for this gift of oil.
May it be a sign for us of your saving love

poured out on all people.

*At this point in the prayer, the minister dips a thumb in the oil and makes a sign of the cross on the forehead of the person seeking wholeness while saying:*

As we anoint with oil,

may \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ be anointed

by your Holy Spirit, and be transformed by the power

of your healing presence.  **Amen**.

**OR**

I anoint you with oil

as a sign of the healing power of God,

in the name of the Father

and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**The Laying On Of Hands**

*The minister and others present lay hands on the person, the minister saying:*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, by the laying on of hands,

and in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ,

we pray that God will uphold you and fill you with grace. May pain and weakness be transformed

by the healing power of God's loving presence. **Amen**.

*A moment of silent prayer for the person.*

*The rites are repeated for each person receiving them*.

**Benediction**

**The Lord bless you and keep you.**

**The Lord be kind and gracious to you.**

**The Lord look upon you with favour**

**and give you peace.** **Amen**. *Num. 6:24-26, TEV.*

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, may the God of hope

fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

so that you may abound in hope,

by the power of the Holy Spirit

through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**. *Rom. 15:13.*