

Service of Anointing

Introduction

Here at Waterloo North we offer prayers and anointing for healing in various ways. At times, Ministry Team has led a prayer and anointing service for individuals in their home, and at other times we have held a prayer vigil or anointing service at the church on behalf of the family or individual facing a health crisis. Besides these services for individuals, once a year we offer a ritual of prayer and/or anointing for healing within a regular worship service for anyone who wishes to participate. In these services, anyone who is seeking health and wholeness, may request prayer and/or anointing for healing of mind, body, spirit, relationships, strength for dealing with losses, support in seeking forgiveness or for some other reason.

The ritual of anointing is as ancient as the biblical record. While there is nothing “magical” about anointing, the oil that is used symbolizes the blessings of God. Our prayers are a way for us to open ourselves to the loving, gracious care of God. God’s healing presence and energy are already within each one of us, in our church and community and in the world. Our prayers as a community of believers are powerful. God heals in ways beyond our understanding. We come to this ritual, not necessarily expecting a miracle, although we are open to one. It is a way of opening ourselves to God’s love and greater plan going forward, putting our trust in God’s goodness and the Spirit accompanying us on our way, no matter what happens.

Today, Mary has requested prayer and anointing for herself. However, she also wants there to be an opportunity for anyone present to come for prayer and anointing for healing, if they wish.

Anyone present who desires prayer for healing and/or anointing is invited to come to a station at the front or back of the church where members of the Ministry Team will be available. When you come, share your name and what you are requesting with the Ministry Team members. During these times of anointing, the rest of the congregation will have the opportunity to hear or sing several hymns and songs.

Prayer and anointing

Response by All:

Mary, we your family, friends and congregation, surround you with our love and care. When darkness overshadows you, we will hold the Christ light for you. We will continue to pray for God’s healing power to move in your life in the places that need healing. We will support you in whatever way we can in the days ahead. May the peace of God dwell deeply in your being.