

Healing



Healing God

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and
that you may be in good health,
just as it is well with your soul
(3 John 2 CEV).

Session 1: Healing and forgiveness

Week beginning Monday 15th February

Session 2: Healing relationships

Week beginning Monday 22nd February

Session 3: Healing the body

Week beginning Monday 29th February

Session 4: Healing creation

Week beginning Monday 7th March

Session 5: Healing

Joint Lent Group

5pm on Saturday 19th March at

St. Andrew's, Scole

Session 1: Healing and Forgiveness

God... who forgives our sins and sets us free (*Colossians 1:14 CEV*).

Opening Prayer

Loving Father God, through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us, we ask you to pour your love and forgiveness into our lives. May Christ live in us as we dwell in him.

Ice Breaker

Questions

Bible Reading(s)

All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. But God treats us much better than we deserve, and because of Christ Jesus, he freely accepts us and sets us free from our sins. *Romans 3:23-24 (CEV)*

In certain ways we are weak, but the Spirit is here to help us. For example, when we don't know what to pray for, the Spirit prays for us in ways that cannot be put into words. All of our thoughts are known to God. He can understand what is in the mind of the Spirit, as the Spirit prays for God's people. We know that God is always at work for the good of everyone who loves him. They are the ones God has chosen for his purpose.

Romans 8.26-28 (CEV)

I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord! *Romans 8.38-39 (CEV)*

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. *James 5.16 (NRSV)*

Peter came up to the Lord and asked, “How many times should I forgive someone who does something wrong to me? Is seven times enough?” Jesus answered: Not just seven times, but seventy-seven times!

Matthew 18.21-35 (CEV)

Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others.

Matthew 6.12 (the Lord's Prayer)

Thoughts on the Reading(s)

Commentary

I have sinned, I have fallen short and so have you. This is such an unfashionable thing to say today where people are told not to hold onto the past. Modern therapies can help us to take control of our minds but then the message is to let go of anything negative and focus only on the positive. But what happens when the negative thoughts and emotions refuse to go? Well, too many people then feel that they have failed.

We are all a mix of good and bad, we're streaky, God knows that and that is one of the reasons Jesus came; so that we can find forgiveness and the Holy Spirit can bring us healing. We have a forgiving God who will never let go of us.

God's offer of forgiveness is a powerful gift. A gift that I need so much and I think perhaps all people do too. Without forgiveness, hurts and resentments build up. Bursts of temper happen to us all and have consequences. What about those people whose relationships fail? Individuals need forgiveness and our society does too. This forgiveness is offered, but are you, are they ready to say, “Sorry”?

God can forgive us directly but often he chooses another human being. Sometimes it is necessary for us to talk to someone else to understand what we have done, and if that person is a Christian we know that their prayers for our forgiveness are powerful. Talking to someone can also help us to heal at least some of the hurt that we have caused. Talking can also help us to see it was never our fault in the first place!

Finally, we need to remember that we are called to be more godlike. So if we ask God for forgiveness we need to be ready to forgive others. Ironically, this can be something that I most often need to bring to God, asking for forgiveness because I've failed to forgive and asking for the Spirit to work on me to make me more forgiving in the future.

Healing through forgiveness comes in so many different ways, let yourself be open to the Spirit, let him bring forgiveness to you, and then you'll know that you are loved and nothing can separate you from that love.

Nigel Tuffnell (December 2015)

Prayer

Time for reflection

Act of Forgiveness and Healing

Leader: The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

All: We cast our burdens upon the Lord and he will sustain us:

Act of forgiveness and healing

All: God, the Father of mercies, has reconciled the world to himself through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ, not holding our sins against us, but sending his Holy Spirit to shed abroad his love among us. By the ministry of reconciliation entrusted by Christ to his Church, receive his pardon and peace to stand before him in his strength alone this day and for evermore. Amen.

Refreshments and Sharing

Closing Prayer

Leader: God who said: 'Let light shine out of darkness' has caused his light to shine within us to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God revealed in the face of Jesus Christ. We have this treasure in earthen vessels to show that the power belongs to God.

All: God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. We go out in the joy and peace of Christ. Amen.

Your Notes:

Session 2: Healing relationships

Love each other as brothers and sisters and honour others more than you do yourself (*Romans 12.10 CEV*).

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, through the Holy Spirit living in us, teach us how to live together as the body of your son Jesus, teach us to live together in unity as you live as one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Ice Breaker

Bible Reading(s)

“What is the most important commandment?” 29 Jesus answered, “The most important one says: ‘People of Israel, you have only one Lord and God. 30 You must love him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.’ 31 The second most important commandment says: ‘Love others as much as you love yourself.’ No other commandment is more important than these”
Mark 12.28b-31 (CEV).

Romans 12.1-19 (CEV):

Dear friends, God is good. So I beg you to offer your bodies to him as a living sacrifice, pure and pleasing. That’s the most sensible way to serve God. 2 Don’t be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him.

3 I realize how kind God has been to me, and so I tell each of you not to think you are better than you really are. Use good sense and measure yourself by the amount of faith that God has given you. 4 A body is made up of many parts, and each of them has its own use. 5 That’s how it is with us. There are many of us, but we each are part of the body of Christ, as well as part of one another.

6 God has also given each of us different gifts to use. If we can prophesy, we should do it according to the amount of faith we have. 7 If we can serve others, we should serve. If we can teach, we should teach. 8 If we can encourage others, we should encourage them. If we can give, we should be generous. If we are leaders, we should do our best. If we are good to others, we should do it cheerfully.

9 Be sincere in your love for others. Hate everything that is evil and hold tight to everything that is good. 10 Love each other as brothers and sisters and honour others more than you do yourself. 11 Never give up. Eagerly follow the Holy Spirit and serve the Lord. 12 Let your hope make you glad. Be patient in time of trouble and never stop praying. 13 Take care of God's needy people and welcome strangers into your home.

14 Ask God to bless everyone who mistreats you. Ask him to bless them and not to curse them. 15 When others are happy, be happy with them, and when they are sad, be sad. 16 Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people. 17 Don't mistreat someone who has mistreated you. But try to earn the respect of others, 18 and do your best to live at peace with everyone.

19 Dear friends, don't try to get even. Let God take revenge. In the Scriptures the Lord says, "I am the one to take revenge and pay them back."

Thoughts on the Reading(s)

Commentary

Our relationships with one another are to reflect God's relationship with us and aspire to the Trinity relationship of the Father, with the Son, with the Spirit, i.e. unity with one another and with God. A huge amount of the Bible is a warning about poor or broken relationships between God and people and broken relationships in society. Indeed, the Bible does not make any clear distinction between the two. For example, Proverbs 22.22-23 (CEV), "Don't take advantage of the poor or cheat them in court. The Lord is their defender, and what you do to them, he will do to you" or Proverbs 19.17 (CEV), "Caring for the poor is lending to the Lord, and you will be well repaid".

Healing relationships between ourselves is a key part of our devotion to Christ. We are to love one another, as God loves us. We are to be a godly people showing society how relationships should be.

When we fail to live as we should with one another, then we are to remember the gift of forgiveness (see Session 1). Forgiveness is a gift of the Spirit to allow fallible people like us to repair our relationships, to put our mistakes behind us and start over again.

Thankfully, this gift of forgiveness doesn't wear out, indeed, we are told to never stop forgiving as Jesus made clear in Matthew 18.21-22 (CEV), "Peter came up to the Lord and asked, "How many times should I forgive someone who does something wrong to me? Is seven times enough?" Jesus answered: "Not just seven times, but seventy-seven times!"

Nigel Tuffnell (December 2015)

Prayer

Time for reflection

Galatians 5.22-23 (NRSV), "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Loving Father, fill us with your Spirit so that we may become more loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, generous, faithful, gentle and self-controlled, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Refreshments and Sharing

Closing Prayer

Leader: The prophet Micah wrote, "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you?"

All: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. Amen.

Your Notes:

Session 3: Healing the Body

'God's kingdom is now very near.' Heal the sick. *Matthew 10.7-8 (ERV)*

Opening Prayer

Loving Father God, through the Holy Spirit reveal your kingdom in us; pour your healing into our lives and into the lives of those we know and love. Amen.

Ice Breaker

Bible Reading(s)

If you are having trouble, you should pray. And if you are feeling good, you should sing praises. If you are sick, ask the church leaders to come and pray for you. Ask them to put olive oil on you in the name of the Lord. If you have faith when you pray for sick people, they will get well. The Lord will heal them, and if they have sinned, he will forgive them. *James 5.13-15 (CEV)*

God had given Jesus the power to heal the sick, and some people came carrying a crippled man on a mat. They tried to take him inside the house and put him in front of Jesus. But because of the crowd, they could not get him to Jesus. So they went up on the roof, where they removed some tiles and let the mat down in the middle of the room.

When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the crippled man, "My friend, your sins are forgiven." The Pharisees and the experts began arguing, "Jesus must think he is God! Only God can forgive sins." *Luke 5.17-21 (CEV)*

Jesus knew what they were thinking, and he said, "Why are you thinking that? Is it easier for me to tell this crippled man that his sins are forgiven or to tell him to get up and walk? But now you will see that the Son of Man has the right to forgive sins here on earth." Jesus then said to the man, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk home."

At once the man stood up in front of everyone. He picked up his mat and went home, giving thanks to God. Everyone was amazed and praised God. What they saw surprised them, and they said, "We have seen a great miracle today!" *Luke 5.22-26 (CEV)*

After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee and told the good news that comes from God. 15 He said, "The time has come! God's kingdom will soon be here. Turn back to God and believe the good news!" *Mark 1.14-15 (CEV)*

"God's kingdom is now very near.' Heal the sick. Bring the dead back to life. Heal the people who have leprosy. And force demons out of people. I give you these powers freely, so help others freely." *Matthew 10.7-8 (ERV).*

Thoughts on the Reading(s)

Commentary

Physical, bodily healing appears a great deal in Jesus' ministry and in the New Testament as a whole. There are so many stories of healing in the Gospels that I could have filled several booklets if all of them were included here. Healing is therefore clearly important both to Jesus' ministry and the ministry of Jesus' body, the Church.

Healing was clearly a part of the life of the church recorded in the New Testament, but is it a part of the church now? Some of my lecturers at college would have argued, 'no'. For them it was clear that 'miraculous' or 'supernatural' healing was something that died out with the very early church.

I, and many others at theological college could not accept this interpretation. Firstly, I and others had experienced miracles (including prophecies and healings) first hand, and had reliable stories from others too. Secondly, nowhere does the Bible say that these gifts were only for the first few decades of the Church. But that led to the obvious question, "If God heals today, why aren't all sick people healed?" or more personally, "Why wasn't my mother/father/child etc. healed when we prayed for them?"

One simple answer comes from that passage from James quoted above, "If you have faith when you pray for sick people, they will get well." So one answer is that if they were not healed either you (praying for them) or they themselves did not have enough faith so they were not healed. It is indeed clear that faith is important for healing but please never fall into this simplistic trap, it is poisonous, leading only to division and despair! A friend of mine went through agonies when told that his mother died because he did not have enough faith or was not praying hard enough.

My friend had a faith that put most to shame and he could not have prayed harder. I have nowhere heard that everyone prayed for was healed, in New Testament times or since. For example, those martyred by the Romans were not miraculously healed from their wounds.

So, faith is important but it is not a simple matter of 'have faith' = 'person healed', i.e. God is not a miraculous slot machine! After all, faith the size of a mustard seed can move a mountain (Matthew 17.20), so I am sure that the faith of God's people here in this part of Norfolk is sufficient.

To find some sort of answer we need to turn to that final reading above, "God's kingdom is now very near.' Heal the sick..." *Matthew 10.7-8 (ERV)*. Jesus' message was that 'God's kingdom' (or 'the kingdom of heaven') was close. Jesus' miracles are described as 'signs', signs of the kingdom to come. Not every sick person in Judea was healed. Very few were raised from the dead. Not all had their mind healed. Not all were set free from evil. Jesus healed to show that his message of the coming kingdom was for real.

Since Jesus' ascension, Jesus is Lord of heaven and earth and God's kingdom is starting to break through into this world. This is the kingdom that will come in fullness at the end of time, where a loud voice from heaven proclaims, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away" *Revelation 21.3-4 (CEV)*. In the meantime we are to allow Jesus to continue to give signs of the Kingdom in this world through the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

To summarise:

1. We are to pray for healing of the body and mind (including laying on of hands and anointing with oil).
2. When praying for healing pray in confidence that the Spirit can heal.
3. Without faith healing cannot be expected. We are to have confidence in God and expect him to heal.
4. Healing, like all miracles is a sign of God's kingdom being a reality and is not a reward for strong faith.

5. We know that all are not healed now, often we must wait for Jesus' return.
6. All physical healing now is only temporary and all will die. The ultimate and complete healing comes with Jesus' return as ruler of all, i.e. when God's Kingdom is fully revealed.
7. Healing is only one of many signs of God's Kingdom (there are many more of the Spirit's gifts (see 1 Corinthians 12) and fruits (see Galatians 5.22-26) given to show the Kingdom here on earth.

Nigel Tuffnell (December 2015)

Thoughts on Commentary

Prayer and Act of Healing

Leader: Jesus you call your people to anoint the sick in your name and so bring a taste of the wholeness and joy of your kingdom to this broken world.

All: **By the power of your Spirit may your blessing rest on each of us and those whom we represent. As we are anointed with this oil in your name may we and they be made whole in body, mind and spirit. Amen.**

The leader begins the anointing.

After the leader has been anointed they say:

Leader: God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to open the door to God's kingdom here on earth.

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: and also with you.

Share the Peace together before sharing refreshments.

Refreshments and Sharing

Your Notes:

Session 4: Healing Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (*Genesis 1.1 RSV*).
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word
was God (*John 1.1 RSV*).

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Deep peace of the running wave to us.

Deep peace of the shining stars to us.

Deep peace of the flowing air to us.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to us.

Deep peace of the risen Christ to us.

(Iona Community)

Ice Breaker

Bible Reading(s)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was barren, with no form of life; it was under a roaring ocean covered with darkness. But the Spirit of God was moving over the water... God looked at what he had done. All of it was very good! Evening came and then morning—that was the sixth day... So the heavens and the earth and everything else were created. By the seventh day God had finished his work, and so he rested. God blessed the seventh day and made it special because on that day he rested from his work. That's how God created the heavens and the earth. *Genesis 1.1,2,31; 2.1-4 (CEV)*

The Lord said to Adam, "You listened to your wife and ate fruit from that tree. And so, the ground will be under a curse because of what you did. As long as you live, you will have to struggle to grow enough food. Your food will be plants, but the ground will produce thorns and thistles. You will have to sweat to earn a living; you were made out of soil, and you will once again turn into soil." *Genesis 3.17-19 (CEV)*

God said to Noah, "You, your wife, your sons, and your daughters-in-law may now leave the boat. Let out the birds, animals, and reptiles, so they can mate and live all over the earth." After Noah and his family had gone out of

the boat, the living creatures left in groups of their own kind.

Noah built an altar where he could offer sacrifices to the Lord. Then he offered on the altar one of each kind of animal and bird that could be used for a sacrifice. The smell of the burning offering pleased God, and he said: Never again will I punish the earth for the sinful things its people do. All of them have evil thoughts from the time they are young, but I will never destroy everything that breathes, as I did this time.

As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat; winter and summer, day and night. *Genesis 8.15-22 (CEV)*

God said to Noah and his sons: I am giving you my blessing. Have a lot of children and grandchildren, so people will live everywhere on this earth. All animals, birds, reptiles, and fish will be afraid of you. I have placed them under your control...

I want you and your descendants to have many children, so people will live everywhere on earth.

Again, God said to Noah and his sons: I am going to make a solemn promise to you and to everyone who will live after you. This includes the birds and the animals that came out of the boat. I promise every living creature that the earth and those living on it will never again be destroyed by a flood.

The rainbow that I have put in the sky will be my sign to you and to every living creature on earth. It will remind you that I will keep this promise forever. *Genesis 9.1,2; 7-13 (CEV)*

I am creating new heavens and a new earth; everything of the past will be forgotten. Celebrate and be glad forever! I am creating a Jerusalem, full of happy people. I will celebrate with Jerusalem and all of its people; there will be no more crying or sorrow in that city...

Their work won't be wasted, and their children won't die of dreadful diseases. I will bless their children and their grandchildren. I will answer their prayers before they finish praying. Wolves and lambs will graze together; lions and oxen will feed on straw. Snakes will eat only dirt! They won't bite or harm anyone on my holy mountain. I, the Lord, have spoken!
Isaiah 65.17-19;23-25 (see also Revelation 21.1-7 and 22.1-2) (CEV)

I am sure that what we are suffering now cannot compare with the glory that will be shown to us. In fact, all creation is eagerly waiting for God to show who his children are. Meanwhile, creation is confused, but not because it wants to be confused. God made it this way in the hope that creation would be set free from decay and would share in the glorious freedom of his children.

We know that all creation is still groaning and is in pain, like a woman about to give birth. The Spirit makes us sure about what we will be in the future. But now we groan silently, while we wait for God to show that we are his children. This means that our bodies will also be set free. *Romans 8.18-23 (CEV)*

Thoughts on the Reading(s)

Commentary

God created all things and created it good. God the Father, but also the Son (see John 1.1) and the Spirit (Genesis 1.2). Human beings are part of that good creation. As creatures created in the image of God we have a central place in creation, that of displaying the image of God, as ruler and as the caretaker of creation (see Genesis 1.27, 2.15 & 7). The health of creation therefore depends upon the godliness of humanity and with the fall of humanity, all creation fell (see Genesis 3).

This fall has resulted in a separation from God. Separate from God, human beings are unable to fulfil their central role in creation and all creation suffers. The fall is the cause of human disease and all human failings such as greed and malice. The fall is also the source of all that is wrong with creation. These wrongs including natural disasters and the cruelty that we see in the natural world such as a cat playing with a mouse before killing it.

The Old Testament prophets make it clear that the goodness of creation is dependent upon the godliness of people (for example, Isaiah 65). Paul is also clear that all creation is groaning under the weight of the corruption infecting it through the fall (see Romans 8).

Jesus came to this earth as a man who was truly godly. As such he could be a new Adam, but this time an Adam who would not fall. Jesus came to pay the price of the fall and to restore creation through the establishment of the

perfect Kingdom of God in earth and heaven once again.

We are saved from the affects of the fall (sin and death) through the death and resurrection of Jesus. As we are saved we begin to stand with Jesus and take our place within creation as the image of God and as caretakers of creation once again. As we are revealed as the sons and daughters of God creation's groaning is eased. Until, when Jesus returns to bring in the Kingdom in all it's fullness, all creation will be freed from futility and decay. Creation healed can then bring healing to the nations. For example, Revelation 22.1-2 describes the leaves from the tree of life as being for the healing of the nations.

To summarise:

1. Humanity has a special place at the centre of creation.
2. With the fall of humanity all creation fell and was corrupted.
3. In Jesus Christ humanity is saved from the fall, which paves the way for all creation to be healed.
4. Our salvation and that of all creation are inextricably linked.
5. By acting as loving caretaker of creation we are witnesses to Jesus and make the wonder of the Kingdom to come, visible here and now.

Nigel Tuffnell (December 2015)

Thoughts on Commentary

Prayers for Creation

Closing Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven:

we pray for our brothers and sisters, the animals and all living things.

Hallowed be thy name:

in each creature to which you have given the gift of life.

Thy kingdom come:

into this world that groans for you to be revealed through us.

Thy will be done:

in reverence of every living thing on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread:

the bread of humility and not of exploitation.

And forgive us our trespasses:

against you, creation and all living things.

As we forgive those who trespass against us:

and ridicule us because we are committed to the care of creation.

And lead us not into temptation:

to use your creation selfishly.

But deliver us from evil:

which blinds us to your glory creation.

For thine is the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

(adapted from the Glauberg Intercession)

Refreshments and Sharing

Your Notes:

Session 5: Healing

I came to give life—life that is full and good (*John 10.10 ERV*).

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, forgive us our sins, so that through your Spirit we may be healed in body, mind and spirit, then send us out into this world as living beacons of your Kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Ice Breaker

Session 1: Healing and Forgiveness

God... who forgives our sins and sets us free (*Colossians 1:14 CEV*).

Session 2: Healing relationships

Love each other as brothers and sisters and honour others more than you do yourself (*Romans 12.10 CEV*).

Session 3: Healing the Body

'God's kingdom is now very near.' Heal the sick (*Matthew 10.7-8 (ERV)*).

Session 4: Healing Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (*Genesis 1.1 RSV*).
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (*John 1.1 RSV*).

A Service of Healing

(adapted from Common Worship Pastoral Services)

Opening

We have been called out of darkness into God's marvellous light.
Grace and peace be with you **and also with you.**

Hymn or song (e.g. 'Holy Spirit we welcome you' or 'come down O love divine')

The love of God has been poured into our hearts, through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us: **we dwell in him and he lives in us.**

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name: **make known his deeds among the peoples.**

Sing to God, sing praises to his name: **and speak of all his marvellous works.**

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty: **who was and is and is to come.**

Saying Sorry

Jesus sets before us the hope of the kingdom of God. All that is broken will be made whole in God's healing love. All that is marred by weakness will be transformed by God's reconciling love. In his humanity, Jesus took upon himself our weakness and bore our sins. The Holy Spirit is present in the struggles and groaning of a world subject to decay, bringing to birth the freedom and glory of God's new creation. It is in this hope that we bring to God our prayers and hopes, looking to God for the new life of the kingdom.

Cast your burden upon the Lord: **and he will sustain you.**

In quietness and trust: **God shall be your strength.**

We are assured of God's love and forgiveness

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from all that you have done wrong, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and help you to live a new life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Laying on of Hands and Anointing

Hands are gently placed on the head of each person who comes forward and kneels:

In the name of God and trusting in his might alone, receive Christ's healing touch to make you whole. May Christ bring you wholeness of body, mind and spirit, and give you his peace. **Amen.**

Olive oil is used to make the sign of the cross on the forehead:

I anoint you in the name of God who gives you life. Receive Christ's forgiveness, his healing and his love. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ grant you the riches of his grace, his wholeness and his peace. **Amen.**

After all who wish to have come forward the following is said:

The almighty Lord, whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth obey, who is strength for all who put their trust in him, be now and evermore your defence. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Final Prayers

God who said: 'Let light shine out of darkness' **has caused his light to shine within us**

to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God **revealed in the face of Jesus Christ.**

We have this treasure in earthen vessels **to show that the power belongs to God.**

A short silence is followed by:

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Peace is shared.

Go in the joy and peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Refreshments and Sharing

People Bingo

The first to fill in all of the boxes wins. You can't use your own name in your Bingo card but you can use the same name for more than one box.

Shout "Bingo" when you have completed all the boxes.

Write in the name of one person who:

Has brown eyes...	Loves Tennis...	Is wearing something blue...	Speaks a foreign language...
Knows what a muntjak is...	Plays a musical instrument...	Has 2 or more pets...	Hates broccoli...
Has 2 or more siblings...	First name begins with an 'S'...	Loves Chinese food...	Knows what a quark is...
Hates football...	Loves watching Eastenders on TV...	Is a bellringer...	Has been to USA...

Your Notes:

