

A CUSTOMARY FOR HEALING PRAYER

Before the Service

- Members of the altar guild should have placed a small wooden box, containing vials of oil, on the altar.
- Healing Prayer Minister should check before the service to see that it is there.

Receiving the Oil

- The Healing Prayer minister should join the altar party on the altar to receive communion.
- The Presider will then hand the box of oils to the Healing Prayer Minister, commissioning him/her to pray for healing in the name of Christ.
- The Healing Prayer Minister responds by answering “I will with God’s help.”

Preparing for Receive People for Prayer

- The Healing Prayer minister then retreats to the back of the church and stands in the vestibule, at the top of the steps.
- The Healing Prayer minister then waits for people to present themselves for prayer.

How To Pray For Healing

- Look the person directly in the eye.
- Ask what they would like to offer in prayer. (It may be a request for general healing or specific healing. It may be for physical, spiritual, emotional or relational healing.)
- Place hands on shoulder or head.
- Put a small amount of oil on your thumb and then make the sign of the cross with it on the person’s forehead.
- Use the person’s name in the prayer.
- Mention the specifics of the person’s concern. If they wish for you to pray as proxy for someone else, ask them the name of the person and use it in the prayer.
- If the prayer is for someone else, mention the concern brought by the person standing there. Include them in the prayer, also.

Helpful Hints

- If you have trouble with spontaneous prayer, you may wish to write a short, general healing prayer and insert the person’s name and intention in the middle of it.
- It is always appropriate to include a desire for peace, joy and restoration to wholeness in the prayer.
- Keep them fairly short and to the point. If someone has a more involved issue, you may wish to do a brief prayer, then ask to speak to them afterward, and/or refer them to the clergy.
- Remember, it doesn’t have to be perfect, just sincere!

Finishing Up

- When prayers are completed, return to your pew with the box of oils.
- After the service, return the box to the metal storage closet downstairs.