

# THE MINISTRY OF HEALING AT SAINT ANNE'S

The Holy Scripture tells us that Jesus touched those who came to him seeking healing in their lives. Jesus saw beyond the immediate physical needs of those who came to him, making those whom he touched whole in all aspects of their lives so that they might glorify and serve God. The act of healing through the laying on of hands has been a part of the church's ministry from the earliest days. Healing of body, mind, and spirit is God's work of love among all people and so we bring the broken parts of our lives to God, prayerfully seeking God's healing.

When we gather for worship we pray as a community of faith "for our own needs and those of others." Our common prayer in community lifts our deepest concerns to God and asks that the healing power of God's love might be present among us. For some there is a physical need, others may need healing in their families, their relationships, their emotional and personal lives. All are invited to pray for God's gift of health and wholeness.

Here at St. Anne's we offer the ministry of the laying on of hands at various times, including during the Sunday Eucharist. As the congregation begins to receive Communion, anyone desiring the ministry of healing prayers is invited to the prayer station at the front left of the church. Usually there will be two lay ministers there, and one or both of them may lay hands on you and pray for you. If you wish, you may share a particular prayer request before the sacrament of healing. Your prayer request is confidential, unless you ask that it be shared with one of the clergy.

It is common for someone to request prayers and anointing as a surrogate for the healing of another person. If that is your desire, let the minister of healing know you are requesting prayers for someone else, and they will pray for that person and for you as their friend or loved one.

You may kneel or stand for the healing prayers, which may include anointing with holy oil.

All are welcome.

*This information was borrowed from a similar document taken from another church long ago, source now forgotten. To that anonymous author, Thank you.*