

## **Healing Service at Greenford**

*By Elizabeth Burke, Greenford Methodist Church*

On Sunday 21 September, Greenford held their first Healing Service in over a year. It was well attended and I found the whole service very moving. The service was held on the United Nations International Day of Peace.

In his call to worship, Rev Steve Day spoke about the International Day of Peace. With so many countries in conflict and so many people suffering, I felt this was the perfect day for the healing service be held on.

The healing ministry consisted of the following:

- The congregation could come up for personal prayer with Christina and Marcia
- Rev Steve would anoint congregation members who came to him
- There were tea lights
- There was a tree, at the back of the church, where the congregation could come and fill out a tag and then hang it on the tree.
- The congregation could sit in their seats and read the leaflet which was given to them before the service started.

During the healing ministry several hymns were played. Rev Steve had prepared a small booklet, given out before the service, and shown below this article. It had a simple prayer on the front and Bible passages, two of which were our Bible readings for the day. I found my favourite Bible passage in the booklet, John 14:2; I also enjoyed reading 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

At the end of the healing ministry, the tree was brought forward and Rev Steve said a concluding prayer.

At the end of the service, I felt very peaceful and had a sense of calmness. I was thankful to have attended this service and look forward to our next healing service.

At our recent church council meeting, feedback was given about the service:

- Have one person at the Communion rail and one sitting near the organ as there was a queue
- Consent for peoples' names to be read out at a service from the prayer sheet
- All other 'stations' at the service were good.

Below is the Healing Service Booklet:

The Lord gives strength to his people and blesses them with peace.

(Psalm 29:11)

May the God who gives us peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being – spirit, soul, and body – free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

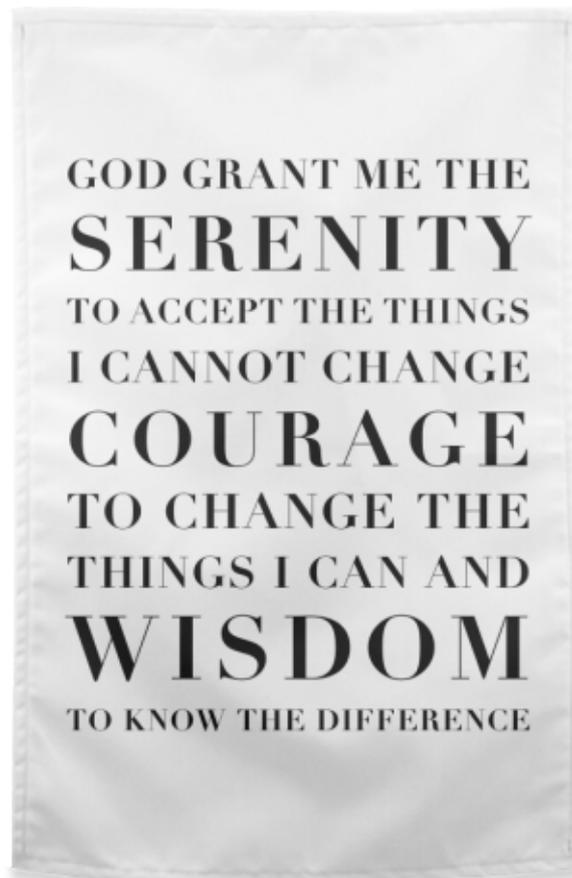
(1 Thessalonians 5:23)

So then, we must always aim at those things that bring peace and that help strengthen one another.

(Romans 14:19)

Do your best to preserve the unity which the Spirit gives by means of the peace that binds you together.

(Ephesians 4:3)





## A Simple Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

**St. Francis**

The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need. He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water. He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths, as he has promised. Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me. Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me.

You prepare a banquet for me, where all my enemies can see me; you welcome me as an honoured guest and fill my cup to the brim. I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life; and your house will be my home as long as I live.

(Psalm 23)

So then, my friends, how dear you are to me and how I miss you! How happy you make me, and how proud I am of you! This, dear friends, is how you should stand firm in your life in the Lord.

Euodia and Syntyche, please, I beg you, try to agree as sisters in the Lord. And you too, my faithful partner, I want you to help these women; for they have worked hard with me to spread the gospel, together with Clement and all my other fellow workers, whose names are in God's book of the living.

May you always be joyful in your union with the Lord. I say it again: rejoice!

Show a gentle attitude toward everyone. The Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.

In conclusion, my friends, fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honourable.

Put into practice what you learned and received from me, both from my words and from my actions. And the God who gives us peace will be with you.

(Philippians 4:1-9)

'Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid.'

(John 14:27)

The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful.

(Colossians 3:15)

And now, my friends, goodbye! Strive for perfection; listen to my appeals; agree with one another; live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

(2 Corinthians 13:11)

When I lie down, I go to sleep in peace; you alone, O Lord, keep me perfectly safe.

(Psalm 4:8)

Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.

(Romans 12:18)