

The Christian Fellowship of Healing (Scotland) worked from the early 1950's to support and spread the healing ministry within churches and to encourage engagement with the medical profession. To further these aims a centre was run in Edinburgh where people could come for prayer, listening and healing. A loving and supportive prayer community formed, which came to an end in 2011. This document is part of a legacy of resources which we hope will support others in their engagement with the healing ministry. More archived material is available to the public at the National Library of Scotland.

Three prayers

By Ian Cowie (Chaplain 1976-88)

Prayer before communion for the cleansing of the family tree. (St Patrick's Breastplate.)

(It might be a good thing to make out a family tree, or write out anything that has been wrong in the family, and spread it unobtrusively before the Lord at the place indicated below).

"I am the Resurrection and the Life" said Jesus.
"He who believes in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

Lord Jesus, Lord of the living and of those we count as dead
I come to your table
at Your gracious invitation.

I bring with me the family of which You made me a part:
Those still in this world (*name them*)
And those who have died (*name those you remember,*
including miscarriages, abortions etc).

But I bring to Your table also the sin and ill-feeling right back to the third and fourth generation (*lay your family tree, or a note of what has gone wrong before God*).

As part of this family I accept my share in its wrongs
And I ask for your forgiveness to cover all our sins.
May Your Living Word in this service
be a two-edged sword to destroy any work of Satan,
to hold up to us all, Christ Crucified and Risen,
that we may all be drawn to Him.

May the Bread
declare your Body, broken for our sin
Your presence entering into us.

Former CFH Resources can be found at:

www.st-cuthberts.net | www.mindandsoul.info
www.emmaushouse-edinburgh.co.uk

May the Wine
declare Your Blood, shed to make a New Covenant with us

So, through me, may Your Cleansing, Healing Life
flow into the family on earth and beyond it,
and may any still in darkness be drawn into the Light
Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, AMEN

Meditation on St Patrick's Breastplate

Long ago, when St Patrick was facing the hostility and the evil power of the Druids, he did as Ephesians 6:13 ff tells us: he put on the whole armour of God. Fuller versions of this can be found in most hymn-books, for instance No.402 in the Church of Scotland Hymnary (3rd edition).

If you have reason to feel apprehensive, then make a regular practice of doing this meditation, which is based on part of St Patrick's original. You may not get the full benefit until you can do it without looking at the printed page. If you know it well enough you can "put on the armour of God" in a matter of seconds if an emergency arises.

Sit upright, yet relaxed, with your Bible and/or cross before you. Focus your attention on Him. Say firmly and deliberately:

Christ behind me
Christ before me
Christ beside me
Christ beneath me
Christ above me
Christ within me

Now come back to each item.

Christ behind me

In the past.
All that has been good is in His Keeping.
I need no regrets, no mementoes.
I can let go of all that was good, knowing that it is precious to Him.
Give thanks to God for all His goodness.
All that was bad, hurtful, shameful, I consign into the depths of His Mercy.
All the hurt which I have caused, all the hurt which others have caused me,
I lay at the foot of His Cross. May the Lord have mercy on us all
(Each time you do this meditation, offer a different incident to Him).

Christ before me

He is the Way stretching before me
from where I am now,
from this actual situation I am in,
right home to our Father's House.
He is the Way: the Way prepared.

He has gone ahead into tomorrow to make it ready.
The future is a journey Home.
Through all the dark valleys He will guide,
and He will provide times when my cup of happiness will overflow.
I face the future knowing the Way.

Christ beside me

"I am with you always".
He is in this situation sharing it with me now.
His strong shoulder is under the burden I carry.
Every joy and every sorrow He shares with us.
He will not fail me nor forsake me.
Nothing can separate me from His Love.
If there is conflict between you and somebody else,
then add after "Christ beside me":

Christ between us

To sever and to reconcile, to shield us
from the sin in one another,
to bless all that is good and true,
to cleanse from pride, possessiveness,
lust, to give laughter, tears, understanding and peace.

Christ beneath me

Underneath are the Everlasting Arms,
cherishing, upholding.
When I fall, it is into His arms that I fall,
and He will lift me up again.
His strength undergirds my weakness.

Christ above me

As a hen gathers her chicks,
so His Love is spread over me,
comforting me, shielding me.
I claim His protection from all attack and oppression.
Under the shadow of His wings I am safe,
and in Him will I trust.
(At evening: I will sleep in peace under the shadow of the Almighty).

Christ within me

I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me.
My body is Christ's body,
bone of His bone, flesh of His flesh.
By the Bread broken and the Wine poured out,
I know that you, Lord, are in me and I in you.
You will accomplish the work you have for me to do,
and Your Grace is sufficient for me.

Now go back to the first section, perhaps expressing each item with your body: Christ behind me (stretch your arms behind you) etc.

Now take up your Bible, and/or put on your cross;

Thus armed, enfolded and led

I go forward

in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN.

A prayer for inner healing

Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us

Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us

Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

The first step

For personal use, first think about that phrase "Lamb of God!

The LAMB is the symbol of innocent suffering, the eternal victim.

All the hurt which people give each other, register in Him.

He said, "Whatever you do to the least of these my brethren, you do to me".

That horrible network of human sin, causing suffering, is all focussed on His Cross. He draws the poison into Himself in order that His life of love may flow out again.

When somebody hurt me, He was hurt for me, and hurt over that person's sin.

When I hurt somebody, I hurt Him and He agonised over my behaviour.

When I wrong somebody, poison remains until I have brought it into the light of His Cross, for forgiveness and cleansing.

When somebody wrongs me, it will continue to poison me until I have brought into the light of His Cross and have forgiven the wrong.

The next step

See yourself at the foot of His Cross.

On your left hand are the people who have hurt you in life, right from the beginning.

On your right hand are the people whom you have hurt.

Spend some time naming them and "seeing" their faces.

Now reach out to these, your fellow-sinners.

Look up into the face of Him who suffers all and who forgives all.

Say:

Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us

Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us

Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

Now, invite them all to say the Lord's Prayer with you.

OUR FATHER... (we are all one family)

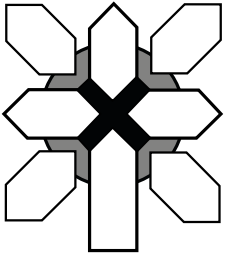
FORGIVE US AS WE FORGIVE...

DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION WITHOUT DELIVERING US FROM EVIL... (we uphold each other in our sinfulness and weakness, knowing that we must confront situations which will test us at our weak points, depending on Him to deliver us).

THINE IS THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY, FOR EVER (end on a note of praise).

Former CFH Resources can be found at:

www.st-cuthberts.net | www.mindandsoul.info
www.emmaushouse-edinburgh.co.uk



Credo

used by the

Christian Fellowship of Healing (Scotland)

The Christian Fellowship of Healing:

is united in its commitment to the practice of prayer as the foundation of all our ministry.

Prayer is the means through which we believe the Holy Spirit can use us, here and now, to continue the practice of healing incarnated by Jesus.

is an ecumenical group of Christians who openly embraces a range of theological understanding and language to describe 'how' God heals.

We accept that health and healing can and does come through medicine, counselling, complementary therapies and other means. This does not negate the real contribution of prayer, rather it upholds the role of prayer to support individuals to listen to the Holy Spirit within them, guiding them, facilitating health and healing.

is committed to being alongside people who are suffering and experiencing pain, struggle and distress whatever their background.

We acknowledge that suffering faces us all and challenges our understanding and belief. Yet we can, with integrity, offer reassurance of God's loving presence accompanying every human being as seen in Christ who has shown us the capacity of God to be vulnerable even to the point of death. Living in and from this truth of the ever present loving God we respond as authentically as possible from our hearts, and we can offer an understanding of the range of meaning of healing which includes miracles.

is convinced of the importance of the varied aspects of healing displayed by Jesus in the miracle stories.

This includes an intense personal encounter with Jesus; affirmation of the individual as a person of value, physical healing, restoration of meaning and purpose, social inclusion; as well as challenge to those in power; confronting rigid thinking and lack of compassion. We believe all these components are aspects of the transforming love of God and reflect the wholeness Jesus calls us into. We see healing as deeply linked with the Christian tradition of vocation through which the living God calls each of us to discover and fulfil our potential.

is united in our understanding that healing in the New Testament includes wholeness.

This links the transforming love that effects miracles with the transforming love that brings the disciples through their fear and resistances into their ministry of apostleship. Our experience is that the practice of prayer in small groups, with a commitment to sharing and listening, enables those of us offering healing prayer to grow in ourselves and in our capacity to experience and share God's love. This includes the reality that some people have a gift of healing and a greater capacity than average to bring about healing.
