

**An example Order of service for:
A Service of Healing and Wholeness**

for all of us who struggle with faith, bodies and identity.

held at St Mark's Broomhill on 29th Jan 2023

'Reimagining Paul' is an exhibition of two newly commissioned artworks created to spark conversation about the apostle Paul, themes of identity, and the interpretation of Paul's letters in contemporary society. The exhibition came to St Mark's Broomhill during January and February 2023. The 2 art works were such a challenging visual presence in church that we felt it was appropriate to shape our healing service around them.

This informal service lasted about 45 minutes and included readings, music, and time for reflection, anointing and prayer. We offered it as an opportunity to reflect on our lived experience of ill health and pain, to explore how faith, bodies and identity overlap and what we might need to feel whole. Is it possible to meet God through challenge and weakness, we wondered? We invited people to pause and to consider what prayer we needed for our wellbeing and resilience.

The objective was to offer a sacred space for restoration and strengthening in mind, body, and spirit, whilst accepting who we were, our weakness and strength.

The Reimagining Paul exhibition and other artwork was used to shape thought provoking prayer stations set up inside the church and there was an opportunity to have our hands anointed for service.

Some pictures of the service are attached to give you some ideas for your own similar service along the same lines.

To see the Reimagining Paul website follow this link:

['Reimagining Paul' Exhibition | SCIBS | The University of Sheffield](#)

Welcome to St Mark's Church

Night Service

@7.00 pm

On Sunday 29th January 2023



A Service of Healing and wholeness

on faith, bodies and identity

Order of Service

Gathering

Take time to settle.

Use these opening minutes to ...

Become aware ...

of your surroundings,

of those around,

of those you carry within.

Welcome & introduction

Sometimes life feels like a struggle, and we get caught up in the brambles and thorns of our lives. Our lived experience of ill health and pain can cause us to feel distant and angry with God but can also bring us closer.

This service of readings, music, time for reflection and prayer is offered as an opportunity to reflect on how faith, bodies and identity overlap and to explore what we might need to feel whole.

Is it possible to meet God through challenge and weakness? Can the thorns remind us of God's love or even be part of God's embrace? We invite you to pause, to consider what prayer you need for your wellbeing and to hold each other in prayer. We hope this sacred space offers a place where we can be restored and strengthened in mind, body, and spirit, whilst accepting who we are, our weakness and strength.

We will use the reimaging Paul exhibition, which is currently at St Mark's, and other thought provoking prayer stations during the service and there will be an opportunity to have your hands anointed for service and healing.

For those who wish there will be prayer at the end of the service.

As we prepare to worship, we light a candle



Opening Responses

Warm and welcoming God
You shape us and name us
And fill us with wonder
And you hold us in love

Bright, beckoning God
You call us and bless us
And fill us with longing
And hold us in love

Strong, revealing God
You comfort us and question us
And fill us with your courage
And you hold us in love

Lord, let us not dwell in the past,
Nor worry about the future.
We cannot undo what is done,
we cannot foresee what will come.
Let us instead dwell in your peace,
love and be loved,
heal and be healed.
We give the past to you and rest in your forgiveness.
We give the future to you and rest in your love.
We live in your light, open our eyes that we may see.
We live in your love, let your love flow through us,
to the fulfilment of your kingdom. **Amen**

Reading: 2 Corinthians 12: 7b - 10

Therefore, to keep me from being too elated,
a thorn was given me in the flesh, a
messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep
me from being too elated. Three times I
appealed to the Lord about this, that it would
leave me, but he said to me, 'My grace is
sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in
weakness.' So I will boast all the more gladly
of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ
may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with
weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions,
and calamities for the sake of Christ,
for whenever I am weak,
then I am strong.



Song:
Is He Worthy

Do you feel the world is broken? We do
Do you feel the shadows deepen? We do
But do you know that all the dark won't stop
The light from getting through? We do
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? We do

Is all creation groaning? It is
Is a new creation coming? It is
Is the glory of the Lord to be
The light within our midst? It is
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? It is

Chorus:

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's root and the Lamb who died
To ransom the slave
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honour and glory?
Is He worthy of this?
He is

Does the Father truly love us? He does
Does the Spirit move among us? He does
And does Jesus our Messiah
Hold forever those He loves? He does
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? He does

Chorus:

Andrew Peterson / Ben Shive

Reading: The Legend of the Broken Bowl.

The Japanese tradition of Kintsugi ('golden joinery'), translated into story form by Judy Yeomans

There was once a boy whose father died when he was very young, and he was made leader or shogun of his people.

Yoshimasa was not interested in politics or battles and as he grew, instead of protecting and leading his people he chose to study the culture of his country, the tea ceremony and the quietness of Buddhism.

He built beautiful houses, the greatest of which was called the Silver Pavilion or temple, a home built at the foot of the mountains, outside the city. Here he summoned poets, artists, painters and tea masters so that he could admire their work and encourage them.

Yoshimasa practised the Japanese tea ceremony, which he developed into a fine (and spiritual) art. He liked its simplicity and he built a special tea house, set apart from his home for people to enjoy the quiet ritual of making and drinking tea. This ritual today is called wabicha.

Yoshimasa admired everything about the tea ceremony; the small room where you could retreat from the world, the little tea scoops and spoons carefully made of wood and bamboo, and the special collection of beautiful bowls for the tea.

One day he broke his favourite tea bowl. He didn't want to waste it, so he sent it back to China to be mended. When the bowl was returned to him, he was disappointed.

The broken pieces had been stapled together and the bowl was ugly. But Yoshimasa loved the bowl and he gave it to some local craftspeople to see what could be done.

They filled the cracks in the bowl with a golden lacquer, making the bowl unlike any other. The repairs had transformed it. Somehow Yoshimasa had a new tea bowl that was still the old tea bowl, but now it was even more precious.

Reflection

Time of Silence and Exploration of Prayer Stations - 15 minutes
You are invited to explore our healing prayer environment and explore the exhibition....



Taizé Chant

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

Let us pray.

Take from my instep,
The skein of damage,
That has threaded its way through my life
Like a tightening cord

Take from my body
The wounds of unloving
That puncture and bruise
Like a scarring sword

Take from my mind
The dark engulfing
That has judged my life
Like a damning word

Take from my soul
The unbelieving
That has made you seem
Like a lost God



Silent Prayer with the opportunity to come forward to light a candle, or to have your hands anointed for service with the following words:

Spirit of the living God, present with us now, enter you, body, mind and spirit, and heal you of all that harms you. In Jesus' name. Amen

**OUR FATHER in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Unaccompanied Music guitar and pipe.

As we end this day in your safe-keeping,
I count three blessings before my sleeping

May the God
who dances
in the storms
and the sunlight
keep you
and cherish you
in mercy
And love.

Closing Blessing

May the blessing of God surround us
May angels and friends share our
journey
May we be wise and strong and
creative
May we celebrate life and hope
May God's image grow within us
May laughter and courage heal us
May the gospel of life sustain us
All the days of our journey home.



And the blessing of God Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with
you and all those you love, both living and departed, now and always.
Amen

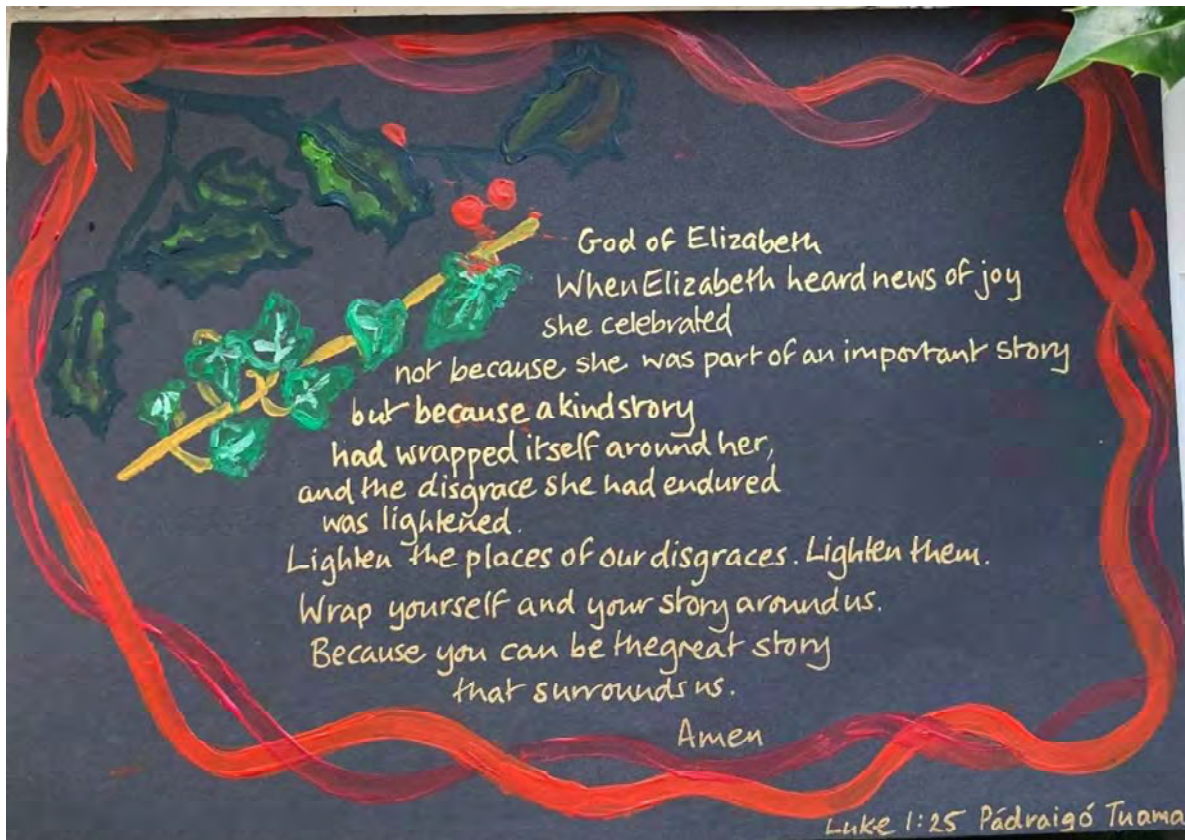
Closing Hymn: Faithful one

Faithful one, so unchanging;
Ageless one, you are my rock of peace;
Lord of all I depend on you;
I call out to you, again and again
I call out to you, again and again

You are my rock in times of trouble
You lift me up when I fall down
All through the storm
Your love is the anchor
My hope is in You alone

Brian Doerksen

*Please feel free to abide in the worship space for as long as you wish.
Prayer is available at the front side of church
Refreshments will be served afterwards in the lounge*



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St Mark's website: www.stmarkssheffield.co.uk

Night Service website: www.nightservice.org.uk