

## MIND,BODY AND SOUL – JESUS AS TEACHER, HEALER AND SAVIOUR

© Christine Odell (Sheasby) 2014

Dear Friends

Welcome to this Local Arrangement service resource. The theme for this service is "Mind. Body and Soul" - Jesus as Teacher, Healer and Saviour.

Please feel free to 'customize' your service to your own congregation... e.g. ... The hymns are only suggestions - if your congregation knows others that fit in with the theme, especially any newer ones, feel free to use those. You will also need to prepare for the prayers of intercession, to reflect current concerns. This is *your congregation's* service of worship to God, so make it as individual as you think appropriate!

I have suggested that you use 2 leaders and 5 readers, but you can adjust this too.

*Chris Odell (Sheasby)*

## **MIND,BODY AND SOUL – JESUS AS TEACHER, HEALER AND SAVIOUR**

### **Call to Worship: Leader 1**

Jesus said, 'Where two or three meet together in my name,  
I am there among them.'  
Come and rejoice, for Jesus is with us.  
Come, let us worship the Lord together, in his name.

**HYMN:** Jesus is Lord!...*StF 353; H&P 260; MP 367*

### **Introduction to the service: Leader 1**

A Sadducee tried to trap Jesus with a question.

"Teacher," he asked, "which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and the most important commandment." We are called to show our love for God in the things that we do, the people we are, the ways in which we think about and understand our lives.

In our service, we explore that three-fold way of being God's people as we concentrate on three aspects of Jesus's ministry to humankind: Jesus the Teacher, who came to open up our minds and understanding to God; Jesus the Healer, who came to bring health and wholeness to our lives; and Jesus the Saviour, who came to offer us never-ending life in God. He came to offer salvation to our minds, our bodies and our souls.

We start with Jesus the Teacher

**Prayer of Preparation: Leader 2** Let us pray,  
Jesus, you were a friend to the disciples,  
You taught them, you guided them, you loved them.  
As we meet in worship,  
Teach us, guide us, love us.

Jesus, you were a friend to the outcast and sinner,  
You called them, you challenged them, you forgave them.  
As we pray to you,  
Call us, challenge us, forgive us.

Jesus, you were a friend to the sick,  
You touched them, healed them, restored them.  
As we seek you today,  
Touch us, heal us, restore us. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**HYMN:** Jesus, stand among us...*StF 30; H&P 530; MP 380*

### **Jesus the Teacher**

#### **Reading: Leader 1**

God is the all-wise Teacher,  
From whom we learn  
Of the things that last,  
Of the truth for our lives.

**Comment: Leader 1**

What makes someone a good teacher?

Is it the knowledge of facts and ideas; the wisdom to be able to convey them; the enthusiasm to bring a subject to life? Usually, it is all three!

Most of us will be able to remember at least one good teacher who made a positive impression on us in our school days.

*(You could have some kind of sharing time in the congregation here.)*

Jesus was a wonderful teacher. People were attracted to his teaching by his air of authority, his dynamism, his wisdom and his loving understanding of human nature. He taught in parables, because he knew that we can only learn Truth when we are challenged and helped to understand it for ourselves.

**Gospel Reading 1: Reader 2** - Matthew 13:1-9

**Readers 2, 3, 4 & 5:**

**2:** I heard his words. They made sense at the time. That's right, I thought, he's got it in one. But then a friend said 'You don't want to listen to him! He's only a working man – what does he know about the Almighty? Now, if you ask me, the truth is...' And my friend's words made sense, too.

**3:** I heard his words. He certainly convinced me. What he had to say was wonderful news! I joined his group. I went to his church. It was great! But then, well, I got this job. I had to work on Sunday mornings. And the kids don't like me going out on Sunday night.

**4:** I heard his words. I listened almost to the end – then I remembered I'd left the dinner on too high. And it had started to look like rain and the sheets were still out. And it occurred to me that I didn't have quite enough wrapping paper for that present – perhaps the newsagent would still be open. I heard his words – I think.

**5:** I heard his words. And I heard him, too. And in him, I found God.

**Comment: Leader 1**

It is one thing to find a good teacher and another to be a good pupil. We reflect on this in our hymn...

**HYMN:** Open our eyes, Lord... *MP 545 OR* Open the eyes of my heart, Lord...*StF 451*

**Psalm: Leader 1**

We now turn our thoughts to Jesus as healer, after recognizing the healing love of God by reading Psalm 103 (*StF 823 or H&P*) together responsively.

**Jesus the Healer**

**Gospel Reading 2: Reader 2** -Matthew 9:1-7

**Reflection: Reader 3**

It is a terrible thing to see a young, fit man laid so low.

Unable to do anything for himself,

Dependent on the family he had taken such pride in providing for.

We had known him since childhood, grown up in the same synagogue school,  
Run around together, laughed together, shared our thoughts and dreams.

But now, so helpless, it was as if his life and our sense of joy were over.  
He was laid so low that he felt that God himself had rejected him.

Page 2

And so, when we heard about Jesus the Healer  
We lifted our friend onto a stretcher and carried him to what seemed our only hope.  
And Jesus, full of God's loving power, lifted him, body and soul,  
So that we could all walk on together!

**Prayers of Intercession: Leader 2**

Let us bring our world, our church and ourselves, in need of healing, in prayer to God the Healer, in the name of Jesus Christ. Let us offer our prayers of intercession. In these prayers there is a response – L: God who suffers with us: **R: Hold us, heal us, save us.**

Let us pray:

We pray for a world in need of healing.

We bring to God nations afflicted with the diseases of warfare, injustice and poverty. We pray  
For wounded soldiers, tortured political prisoners and children dying of malnutrition.

We remember especially.....

L: God who suffers with us: **R: Hold us, heal us, save us.**

We pray for a society in need of healing.

We bring to God our nation, afflicted with the diseases of materialism, violence and cruelty. We pray for wealthy but dissatisfied business men, people afraid to go out alone, and children suffering abuse and neglect. We remember especially.....

L: God who suffers with us: **R: Hold us, heal us, save us.**

We pray for a church in need of healing.

We bring to God the church, afflicted with the diseases of division, introversion and fear. We pray for the congregation split apart by disagreements, the fellowship existing only for itself, the church that does not dare to change. We remember especially.....

L: God who suffers with us: **R: Hold us, heal us, save us.**

We pray for individuals in need of healing.

We bring to God our neighbours and ourselves, afflicted with diseases of body, mind or spirit. We pray for those facing a future of chronic illness and treatment, families burdened with mental illness, believers eaten up with feelings of guilt and worthlessness. We remember especially.....

L: God who suffers with us: **R: Hold us, heal us, save us.**

We make our prayers in the name of him who came to seek and save the lost, to heal broken bodies and lives, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**HYMN:** When I needed a neighbour...*StF 256; H&P 151* **OR** Kum ba ya... *H&P 525*

**Comment: Leader 1**

Jesus the Teacher offered new understanding of God's love, Jesus the healer offered a healing of body, mind and soul. And so we turn our thoughts to Jesus the Saviour, who offers us a whole new life in relationship with God, the offer of life in all its fullness, the offer of salvation.

**Jesus the Saviour**

**Epistle Reading: Reader 4** -Romans 8:31-39

Page 3

**Verse: Reader 5**

It is a thing most wonderful,  
Almost to wonderful to be  
That God's own Son should come from heaven,  
And die to save someone like me.  
And yet I know that it is true;  
He chose a poor and humble lot,  
And wept and toiled and mourned and died,  
For love of those who loved him not.

**Offering & Prayer: Leader 2** Let us pray:

Loving God, as we remember  
Your giving of yourself to us in Jesus  
Our Teacher, Healer and Saviour,  
We would give ourselves in love to you –  
All that we are, all that we have, all that we do –  
In his Name, Amen.

**HYMN:** Blessed assurance...*StF 548; H&P 668; MP 59*

**Dismissal: Leader 1**

Let us go out into the world  
As God's holy and beloved people  
Made wise by his teaching,  
Made whole by his healing,  
Brought alive by his salvation,  
Prepared to tell his story and to sing his song. **Amen.**