

**Winchester, Eastleigh & Romsey Circuit**  
**Service at Home      Sunday 30 June 2024**  
Prepared by Rev John Archer

**Call to Worship**

Let your peace rule in our hearts Lord, that we may delight in your strength, rejoice in your grace, and find fulfilment in your will, through Christ our Lord. *Matthew Henry 1662*

**Prayer**

Almighty and all loving God  
we come to worship you,  
to proclaim your greatness,  
to acknowledge your power,  
to recognise your sovereignty,  
and declare your goodness.  
Compassionate and caring God  
we praise you for the love that surrounds us,  
for all the blessings of our lives,  
for the wonders of our world,  
and for the hope of our faith in Christ.  
Lord hear our prayer. AMEN

**Read, pray or sing StF 354** *Jesus is the name we honour* [Jesus is the name we honour worship song with Lyrics \(youtube.com\)](#)

1 Jesus is the name we honour;  
Jesus is the name we praise.  
Majestic name above all other names,  
the highest heav'n and earth proclaim  
that Jesus is our God.

We will glorify,  
we will lift him high,  
we will give him honour and praise.  
We will glorify,  
we will lift him high,  
we will give him honour and praise.

2 Jesus is the name we worship;  
Jesus is the name we trust.  
He is the King above all other kings,  
let all creation stand and sing  
that Jesus is our God.

3 Jesus is the Father's splendour;  
Jesus is the Father's joy.  
He will return to reign in majesty,  
and every eye at last will see  
that Jesus is our God.

*Philip Lawson-Johnston*

**Bible Reading** : Mark 5: 25 -34

**Prayer**

Merciful and forgiving Lord  
in sorrow and shame we come before you  
to confess our unworthiness,  
to confess we have not loved you  
or one another as we should,  
to confess we have failed to use our gifts  
and broken your commandments  
Lord hear our prayer AMEN

**Meditation " A Sick Woman"**

I was sick, sick of body and sick of mind, sick of spirit – fed up with having my hopes raised only to be dashed again, fed up with everything. I'd suffered for so long, my strength failing, my fears multiplying, and I was ready to give up, to say goodbye to it all, to curl up in some dark corner and let life slip away.

But then suddenly I saw him, just a few yards in front of me, the man they were talking about – Jesus of Nazareth. Prophet teacher, worker of miracles – and it took only a glance to convince me he was the answer to my prayers. Yes I was desperate, admittedly ready to believe anything, clutching at straws, but there was more to it than that for I could see that this man was unique. So I pushed my way through the crowds and I reached out to touch him, just the faintest of contacts and yet immediately I felt well again. But then I froze in horror. He stopped and turned around and looked at the crowd. Goodness knows how he'd felt my touch amongst all the others, and I realised what I had done – broken every commandment in the book by touching him in my condition. I waited for the rebuke but it never came, just the question "Who touched me?". There was no escape - I knew there was no deceiving this man. I blurted out the whole story pleading for forgiveness. I still feared the worst but, as I dared to look up into his eyes, he had a look of love and understanding which I will never forget. "Daughter your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your disease". It was true the disease had gone but there was more than that. I found new meaning, new hope and new purpose. I am whole now, whole in body, whole in mind and whole in spirit, ready for whatever life might bring, ready for anything!

## Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ

you touched the sick and made them well,  
you touched the lepers and made them clean  
you touched the blind and made them see.

You brought wholeness, a health of mind body and spirit. Reach out to all who suffer today and work through those to whom you have entrusted the ministry of healing in all its forms

In your name we ask it AMEN

**Read pray or sing StF 650 *Heal us Immanuel***  
[Heal Us, Emmanuel \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

1 Heal us, Immanuel! Hear our prayer;  
we wait to feel your touch;  
deep-wounded souls to you repair,  
and, Saviour, we are such.

2 Our faith is feeble, we confess;  
we faintly trust your word;  
but will you pity us the less?  
Be that far from you, Lord!

3 Remember him who once applied  
with trembling for relief:  
'Lord, I believe!' with tears he cried,  
'O help my unbelief!'

4 She, too, who touched you in the press,  
and healing virtue stole,  
was answered: 'Daughter, go in peace,  
your faith has made you whole.'

5 Concealed amid the gathering throng,  
she would have shunned your view;  
and if her faith was firm and strong,  
had strong misgivings too.

6 Like her, with hopes and fears we come  
to touch you, if we may;  
O send us not despairing home,  
send none unhealed away!

*William Cowper (1731-1800)*

## Sermon

### Introduction

The Bible passage has two stories – one within another – a Markan 'sandwich'. He does it again in Ch 11 with the story about the fig tree. On this occasion the 'outer' story is about Jairus, a local synagogue president, and particularly his 12 yr old daughter. The 'inner' story is about a much older woman, who for the same 12 years has suffered

severe menstrual bleeding. I am today concentrating on the 'inner' story

### The Story

As Jesus breaks off his journey to deal with the woman, many of the crowd, and especially Jairus, would have been irritated and frustrated. After all his daughter is dying. Jesus is on his way to a house where we already suspect that he will find a corpse. Thoughts of sorrow would mingle with the threat of impurity, since contact with a dead body is one of the chief sources of impurity in Jewish law. Here, on the other hand, is a woman who has chronic internal bleeding at menstruation, one of the other main causes of impurity. Jairus has asked Jesus to come to his house so that his daughter may be 'saved'. The woman says to herself 'If I can only touch his clothes, I shall be rescued' "Your faith has saved you" says Jesus to the woman. "Don't be afraid only believe" he says to Jairus. Clearly Mark intends us to see the stories knocking sparks off each other.

Jairus' need is obvious and loudly proclaimed, but this woman's need is every bit as desperate to her, even though she is silent about it. To have a discharge of blood is to be unclean and causes exclusion from contact with others and the synagogue. She had tried the doctors, she had tried everything. She had spent all her money and things only got worse. She had no doubt tried some of the Talmud's 11 cures – some quite bizarre! In desperation she reaches out in silent embarrassment to Jesus. She could not go into the crowd and state openly her problem., so she tried touching Jesus in secret. In the time of Jesus every devout Jew wore an outer robe with 4 tassels on the corners. It was one of these tassels that the woman had touched – and she found herself cured! Many a person has come to Jesus as a last resort, when they were desperate. No person needs to be desperate when they come to Jesus. He will never send us empty away. In the words of the lovely old hymn

"When other helpers fail and comforts flee.,  
Help of the helpless O abide with me"

This passage tells us something about 3 people

### 1. It tells us something about Jesus

It tells of the cost of healing – it took something out of him. This is a universal rule of life. We will

never produce something great unless we are prepared to put something of ourselves into it. No pianist will ever give a really great performance just by following the notes with faultless technique. No actor will give a really great performance just repeating the words and gestures like a robot. His tears must be real tears, his feelings real feelings. No preacher who ever preached an inspired sermon will leave the pulpit without a feeling of being a bit drained.

Jesus had just had a most exacting time dealing with a violent man among the graves. He was now on a journey to visit a very sick child, and now this energy has gone out of him. It is the way of God to give and give and give again

### 2. It tells us something about the disciples

It shows the limitations of what we would call common sense. That is the view they took. How could Jesus avoid being touched and jostled in a crowd like that. It is like someone asking "Who touched me?" in a rugby scrum!

We so often fail to recognise what others are going through. Because we have no experience of something, it is easy to forget that something is costly to someone else. Some time ago my wife wrote a series of study books called "Put Yourself in my Shoes" Taking people from the gospel stories and trying to get behind the story and the person. They were published by Methodist Publishing House and very popular.

### 3. It tells us something about the woman

It tells us of the relief of confession. It was all so difficult. It was all so humiliating. But once she had told the whole truth to Jesus, the terror and the trembling were gone and a wave of relief flooded her heart. As we read about this and other healing miracles in the New Testament there is a risk that we think of it as simply history. Healing still continues to take place today in all sorts of ways – mostly undramatic. But we do need to think carefully about what are described as modern miracles. It is possible to be fooled. I love the story of Dr Jan Lavric from Doncaster who had helped organise a trip to Rome for a group of disabled people. The highlight of the trip was an audience with the pope in the Vatican. By the time Dr Lavric had seen to the needs of the disabled members of the party there was just one empty seat left – a wheelchair. But no sooner had he sat down than a nun wheeled him off to be blessed by the Pope. Dr Lavric had no chance to explain. The Pope said

words of blessing then left the room. As Dr Lavric got up from his seat, there was a tremendous commotion amongst the nuns. They thought it was a miracle!

There is copious literature about remarkable modern healings and not all amongst the Pentecostal wing of the church. Here are 2 examples. The evangelist John Wimber tells of an occasion when he and a team member were called to pray for a woman whose left hand had actually died. It was black to the elbow, her fingers were drawn up and rotting. An amputation had been scheduled for the following day. He said the odour was awful and I could almost see bones through the skin of the fingers. I stood there swallowing trying to settle my queasy stomach, when suddenly I knew I had to touch that hand. I put my hands over hers and prayed. As soon as I got out of the room, I said to the team "Why on earth did I do that? I probably embarrassed her by drawing attention to her plight." We went home with no sense of having won a victory at all. I fully expected to hear the next day that the amputation had been completed. Two weeks later her brother came up to me with a lengthy letter the woman had written. It told how overnight her hand had begun to recover just enough to forestall the amputation. The doctors kept postponing it a day at a time until she was quite well again.

The other example is from the ministry of Rev David Watson a great Anglican preacher and evangelist. It concerns Susan Speight a domestic science teacher from Wetherby who, for 4yrs, had been confined to a wheelchair due to neuropathy stemming from diabetes. She had lost all feeling from the waist down. In 1977 she went to a festival in Leeds Town Hall where David Watson was the preacher. During David's talk she began to feel her feet getting hot and eventually all feeling returned. She realised that she should now be able to walk again. When the meeting was over, she called to one of the team members and told him what had happened. He helped her out of her wheelchair and together they walked round the outside of the town hall without using sticks. Realising that she could now walk again they went back inside to tell David (who knew nothing about it). They then spent time praising God for his unexpected healing power.

## Conclusion

We see that there is a connection between our faith and Jesus' power. Faith, though itself powerless, is the channel through which Jesus' power can work. He is not a magician doing conjuring tricks by some secret power for an amazed and uninvolved audience. He is God's Son the one who is remaking us. Mark highlights in this story the intimate nature of the contact between the individual and Jesus. When life crowds in with all its pressures there is still room for us to creep up behind Jesus – if that is all we can feel we can do – and reach out to touch him and feel his healing power in our lives.

### **Read sing or pray StF 653** *O Christ the healer* [O Christ, the Healer \(youtube.com\)](#)

- 1 O Christ, the Healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.  
How can we fail to be restored,  
when reached by love that never ends?
- 2 From every ailment flesh endures  
our bodies clamour to be freed;  
yet in our hearts we would confess  
that wholeness is our deepest need.
- 3 How strong, O Lord, are our desires,  
how weak our knowledge of ourselves!  
Release in us those healing truths  
unconscious pride resists or shelves.
- 4 In conflicts that destroy our health  
we diagnose the world's disease;  
our common life declares our ills:  
is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
- 5 Grant that we all, made one in faith,  
in your community may find  
the wholeness that, enriching us,  
shall reach the whole of humankind.

*Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)*

### **Prayers for Others**

Living and life giving God in faith and trust we come to petition you –

to pray for ourselves, one another and the world,

to bring the concerns of daily life before you,  
to lift our loved ones into your presence,  
to commit the affairs of our world into your hands,  
to especially commit the decisions which will be

made at the coming General Election

Respond to us we pray,

touch our hearts with your living presence,  
and fill our lives with your grace,  
so that our love for you may grow,  
our faith be deepened,  
and our service strengthened.

Lord of all hear our prayer in the name of Christ.

AMEN

### **We say the Lord's Prayer**

### **Read sing or pray StF 661** *Give me the faith* [MisM Video 4K Paid 16x9 EN 15sec \(youtube.com\)](#)

- 1 Give me the faith which can remove  
and sink the mountain to a plain;  
give me the childlike praying love,  
which longs to build thy house again;  
thy love, let it my heart o'erpower,  
and all my simple soul devour.
- 2 I would the precious time redeem,  
and longer live for this alone:  
to spend, and to be spent, for them  
who have not yet my Saviour known;  
fully on these my mission prove,  
and only breathe, to breathe thy love.
- 3 My talents, gifts, and graces, Lord,  
into thy blessed hands receive;  
and let me live to preach thy word,  
and let me to thy glory live;  
my every sacred moment spend  
in publishing the sinners' friend.
- 4 Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart  
with boundless charity divine:  
so shall I all my strength exert,  
and love them with a zeal like thine;  
and lead them to thy open side,  
the sheep for whom their Shepherd died.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

### **Blessing**

Our worship here ends but our worship in the wider world begins again. Go in the strength that the Lord gives you AMEN

Acknowledgements

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