



Every Wednesday at 12 noon there will be a special healing service in our church for those who want to come for healing , or to pray for others to be healed. It is a quiet, beautiful service with lots of space for silence and prayer.

We gather around St. Peter's altar, so that the gathering is a little bit more intimate. We move the church pews around to face St. Peter's altar so that we create a little chapel within our larger church. The altar is covered with candles and in the background plays quiet reflective and meditative music.

The liturgy is specifically focused on healing; and before the Eucharist there is an opportunity for individuals to come forward and be anointed with holy oil and prayed over in private.

In the fifth chapter of the Gospel of John there is a story of Jesus visiting a place where people, hundreds of people, were sick, blind and physically disabled. They were at Bethesda, a pool in Jerusalem near what was known as the Sheep Gate. These people lay around in the alcoves hoping to experience healing. We read in scripture that the water would stir and the first one to enter the pool would be healed. If someone couldn't get up on their own, they relied on friends and relatives to lift them quickly, so that they could be first into the pool.

As readers of scripture we know Jesus was quite a phenomenon at that time. He was known for His miracles, healings and radical teaching. He could have been anywhere talking with anyone on the planet because of His fame and the fact that He was God in human form.

He could have had access to the powerful and mighty, but rather than be with those at the top, He was there at the pool with those who could do nothing more than lie around and wait to catch the healing wave.

Jesus chose to be there. Jesus wanted to be there. He wanted to give people hope. He wanted to give people healing.

In ancient times, the sick were ostracized from society but if they had heard about Jesus, they followed him, called out to him...even dared to touch him when he wasn't looking.

Today, people don't have to scan the countryside to find Jesus. He is right in this place, St. Andrew Anglican Church, His Church, waiting to heal those who come.

Jesus never assumed people wanted to be healed, he asked 'what do you want?'
People had a choice—and so do we!

We have made this Healing Service a special stand alone service. A service for those who **want** to come, for people who want to be healed or who want to lift up others before God for healing.

Some churches include their Healing Service as part of their Sunday Worship Service, but there is no privacy. If someone gets up...people may wonder what is wrong with them. As part of Sunday Service, it lengthens the service—and some people don't want to sit around and wait while one after the other gets up to have a prayer said over them.

By having a special Healing Service we are able to focus the prayers and music on the healing power of God, through his Son Jesus Christ. People are there because they want to be.

Make the choice—come and experience the healing that Jesus wants to give you. If not for you, then bring someone you feel may benefit from this healing service. Don't send them, bring them.

This is a service everyone can benefit from—we all need healing.