ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE HEALING MINISTRY

SUNDAY, 10th FEBRUARY 2019

Theme: ***Who Touched Me? Luke 8:44-46***

1. Call to Worship:

Let us worship God, who frees, heals and gives us new life

Come, all you who are weary put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and eternal redemption.

O Lord, our God, We Trust you; for you are our help and shield.

Come, all you who are in pain and suffering.

O Lord, our God, we called unto you for help and you healed us.

Come, let us worship God who has healed and forgiven us.

O, Lord, in joyous relief, we come to you with our praises as we honour and revere you for you are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call unto you. Amen.

2. Welcome:

3. Opening Prayer/Collect for the Day:

Gracious God, Source of all healing, we come before you and recall your faithfulness. You have touched and healed us whenever we sought your face. Help us to feel your touch and find faith in the midst of chaos. You call us from the busy-ness expecting the inner chambers of our hearts to respond. As we come into your presence as an answer to your call, we admit that we have failed at times and have become stumbling blocks in your intention for the world. Inform and inspire us to seek your Kingdom on Earth. Help us to inculcate your hope and joy of salvation and strengthen our lives in ever flowing river of healing and hope. Listen to us as we worship you and help us to listen to you. **Amen**.

4. Opening Hymn: Love Divine all Loves Excelling

5. Apostles Creed/Nicene Creed/Thanksgiving/ Confession and Absolution (as in liturgy)

6. Scripture Readings:

1st Bible Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8
2nd Bible Reading: Acts 3:1-10
3rd Bible Reading: Luke 8:43-48

7. Introduction to the Healing Ministry

The healing ministry of Jesus Christ is based on his compassionate care, life and work. His invitation to preach, teach and heal which began during His earthly life still continues and is open to us. His desire for every individual is to have an abundant life. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the source of every healing from the beginning till now. This healing is

multidimensional covering all the aspects namely spiritual, mental, physical, emotional and social.

In India, the healing ministry was formally initiated in 1905 by a group of missionaries called Medical Missionary Association of India (MMA). In 1926, it was renamed as Christian Medical Association of India. Today, CMAI has about 300 Christian mission hospitals which include two prestigious medical colleges in Ludhiana and Vellore. It also brings together more than ten thousand dedicated Christian health professionals in the ministry of healing. It has gone from strength to strength by contributing to the different health care needs of our country. CMAI members have done pioneering work in several areas like leprosy, tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS. The goal of CMAI is to serve the churches in India by assisting in its ministry of healing to build a just and healthy society in response to the love and command of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

8. The suggested Sermon outline: ***Theme – Who Touched Me?***

Introduction: Someone touched Jesus differently than the crowd was touching Him. It was a powerful touch of faith and trust. The woman's faith drew out the power to heal.

Old Testament

- In the Old Testament, prophet Isaiah responds positively to God to be His chosen messenger to a rebellious people in the kingdom of Judah. As an act of sanctification, God sends one of the seraphims to touch Isaiah's lips with a live coal from the altar. This powerful touch purifies Isaiah to be God's spokesman by taking away all his iniquity.

New Testament

- The woman who was suffering with menorrhagia for twelve years was in a miserable situation.
  - She was drained physically and must be severely anaemic due to her constant blood loss. She must have exhausted all her financial resources on consulting physicians and on medications.
  - According to the Levitical Law, she was ceremoniously unclean and so she must be socially marginalised with no permit to take part in the temple worship. It was unacceptable for Jewish rabbi to be touched by a woman and more so by an 'unclean' woman.
  - So she sneaked behind Jesus and stooping down managed to touch the border of His garment.
  - It was the lady's touch and the lady's faith that had healed her. When the power of Jesus went out from him she was restored.
  - In a sense Jesus took on the person's uncleanness on Himself and made Himself 'unclean'. He made Himself vulnerable and He did just that when He took on our sins and allowed Himself to die a shameful death on the cross. We read in Deut.21:22, 23 that a person who is hanged on a tree is accused of God.
  - But why did Jesus stop when the woman's healing had already occurred through the touch. Jesus stopped to draw attention to her plight and relief because she needed to realize that she wasn't an interruption or unimportant to Jesus; she mattered. She needed to hear someone call her "Daughter," affirm her faith and

send her home in real peace (Luke 8:48). With his compassionate words, Jesus expanded and deepened her healing.

Conclusion

As people involved in God's healing ministry, we need to reach out to the great healer to touch his garment to draw strength from Him. How do we respond to those who meet us with untold, unshared pain and anguish? Are we there to touch people with physical needs which marginalize and stigmatize them and alienate from the society. How do we respond to people with infected wounds, skin diseases, HIV/AIDS and deformities because of which they become un-touchable?
It's easy to shun such people and bounce them off to someone else. But the example of Jesus we must emulate is that He reached out to those living on the fringes and marginalised by society. Do our hospitals and churches welcome such people who are in need? Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick" (Matt.9:12). Are we a Good Samaritan to our neighbour? Are we compassionate to deepen the healing of people in need?

Prayer:

9. Intercession

L : Dear Lord, we come before You today in need of Your healing touch. In You all things are possible. Hold our hearts within Yours, and renew our mind, body and soul. As lost sheep we come to You seeking your grace. Give us the strength to move forward on the path you've laid out for us as we walk this journey of life in faith.

All : Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

L : Heavenly Father, you gave your Son to live among us, to suffer and die for us that by His wounds, we might be healed. Lord Jesus, you healed the sick and cared for the poor when you lived on earth. Help us to love those in our care as you loved them. We specially pray for those who nurse and heal and all those who work in hospitals, old age homes and as home caregivers. God of love, teach them to give their best, to speak with love and act with courage. May they be good stewards of all the gifts you have given and be able to lift the spirit of those who are weak and worn.

All : Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

L : We pray for all those who are sick, weak and troubled. Especially for children who are affected by illness whose only hope is Your healing touch. May they sense your presence, may they feel your power, may they know your love, may their body be filled with light and truth, with healing and wholeness. We pray for the loved ones of the sick. May you be their beacon of hope and strength in their time of helplessness as they take care of the sick ones?

All : Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

L : Almighty God we pray for all CMAI institutions and individual members across the country to show forth the love of your son Jesus Christ to the sick, suffering and distressed. As we walk the footsteps of Christ in serving the less privileged and

marginalized group of people in the country, we pray this, O Lord, that your face will continue to shine upon us. Help us to be strong in our faith so we can draw from your power and continue to serve people.

All : **Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

L : Lord we pray for CMAI which is the health arm of the churches in India to truly help People. We commit to you the many medical missions of the Church, the Doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, chaplains, administrators and others who work tirelessly in caring for the poor, the disabled and neglected people. We pray that you will fill them with compassion and make them messengers of your healing touch. Give them wisdom, courage and integrity. Help us to be also touched by your love and grace as we minister for you.

All : **Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen**

(The Leader may add other prayer requests and conclude with a Pastoral prayer).
Song (Offertory)
(If the Eucharist is celebrated, kindly continue the liturgy of the communion service and conclude with closing prayer and Benediction.

Offering collected during the Healing Ministry Sunday can be sent to:
CMAI Office, Plot No.2, A-3 Local Shopping Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi
by Demand Draft / Cheque in favour of 'CMAI, New Delhi'

If you choose to contribute directly to the Hospitals in cash or in kind, kindly inform us at the following email id's cmai@cmai.org and imtimenla@cmai.org for office record