

**Brunswick Street United Church
2107 Brunswick St., Halifax, N.S.**

Sunday Worship
Brunswick St United Church
12 February 2012

The congregation is invited to say the words printed in bold. Please feel free to sit or stand for the hymns. The offering plate is on the side table for those who feel called to make a contribution. All are welcome in this place! The offering plate should never be a barrier to your participation in this community of faith.

Welcome and Announcements

One: A warm welcome is extended to all. Especially those who are worshipping at Brunswick Street United for the first time or who have returned after an absence. Your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together.

Lighting the Christ candle

Gathering Hymn VU #570 *Jesus Hands Were Kind Hands*

Call to Worship (Responsive)

One: At night, when our cries for help echo off our walls, you hear us;

All: you turn our tears into rivers of joy, Listener of our hearts.

One: As our fears push us closer to the edge of loneliness;

All: you tug us back into the safety of your grace, Servant of the suffering.

One: Every time we stumble trying to be perfect;

All: you pull us to our feet to learn new dance steps of hope, Peace of our souls.

Hymn VU #639 *One More Step*

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Forgive us, loving God, for thinking
that some are worthy of our kindness
but ignoring others as if they are a waste of space.

So that we can become a lot more like Jesus
who ate his lunch with no-hopers
and placed his hands on diseased lepers,
please put more of his Spirit in our hearts and minds.

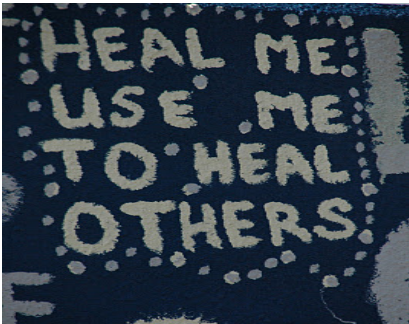
Then perhaps we can change our ways
and become the sort of people who make
this world a much better place. Amen.

Hymn VU #672 *Take Time to be Holy*

More Prayer: (Unison)

God of healing and wholeness, we come with thanksgiving in our hearts for all the evidence of your goodness and mercy - found not only in stories of old, but in lives today. Lives bruised with tragedy find consolation when touched by your gracious Spirit; lives scarred with suffering and rejection have hope renewed through the power of the living Christ. We praise and adore you for hearts and lives transformed by your grace and mercy and we pray that our lives will reflect your great acts of kindness. Arouse in us we pray, a love like yours so that we reach out to this wounded and troubled world with the compassion of Christ, proclaiming the gospel with integrity to friends and strangers alike. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

The Word ~ *Mark 1:40-45*



Sermon ~ *Was Jesus moved by pity or anger?*

Ministry of Music (Choir)

Prayer for Others:

One: Let us link our small compassion with the mighty compassion of God, as we pray for other people.

God of unquenchable optimism and untiring compassion, please assist us to live as those whose daily lives touch others with encouragement and healing.

Bless those caring hands who touch the lives of the diseased; caring for lepers and cancer sufferers, those with aids or other illnesses.

Bless those brave hands who reach out to others in difficult circumstances: the peace-keepers, military stretcher bearers, those who diffuse land mines, Red Cross workers, fire fighters, and prison chaplains.

Bless those positive people who bring light into grey situations: staff in children's hospitals or psychiatric clinics, social workers, grief counsellors, ministers, surgeons and physiotherapists.

Bless those determined souls who are dedicated to hands-on justice and reconciliation: peace negotiators, arbitrators between workers and management, family court judges and counsellors, and those who foster understanding among religions.

Bless those graceful characters who turn the other cheek, go the second mile, give without seeking any reward, love when no love is returned, persist when other's good intentions collapse, and who stretch out their hands to lovingly touch those who once most grievously wronged them.

God of unquenchable optimism and untiring compassion, please make us more like Jesus of Nazareth, that the gulf between our prayers and our deeds may narrow, and our touch become more discerning, sensitive and adept in all our dealings with those around us. Through Christ Jesus our Saviour. Amen!

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn VU #376 Spirit of the Living God

Benediction

One: Go into the world knowing your life has been blessed by God's great mercy, touched by Jesus' compassion, cleansed by the penetrating power of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Christ candle is extinguished