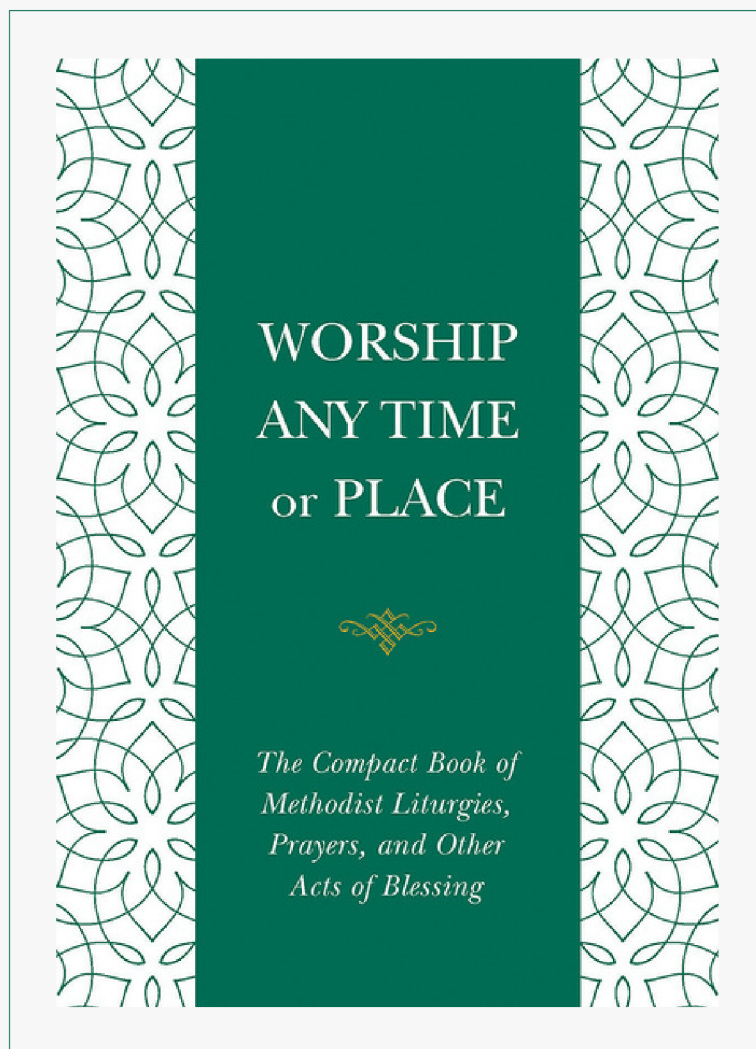


THE NEXT
PRAYER
CHALLENGE



EDITED BY REV. DR. NELSON COWAN



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In addition to his work with Samford University, Dr. Cowan teaches worship, church history, and preaching adjunctly for Candler School of Theology at Emory University (Course of Study Program), Drew University (M.Div students), and Wesley Theological Seminary (D.Min students).

WEEK 2:

PRA YING WITH THE SICK

SILENCE

Take a moment of silence to prepare your heart for the reading of scripture.

READ: JAMES 5:13-16 (NRSV)

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are some key themes that are bubbling up from your reading of this passage? What do you notice? What does it mean to you that the “prayer of faith will save the sick?”

WEEK 2:

READ “A GENERAL PRAYER OF HEALING FOR A VARIETY OF USES”

Almighty God, we pray that [Name] may be comforted in their suffering and made whole. When they are afraid, give them courage; when they feel weak, grant them your strength; when they are afflicted, afford them patience; when they are lost, offer them hope; when they are alone, move us to their side; [when death comes, open your arms to receive them]. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Source: The United Methodist Book of Worship
and Worship Any Time or Place, p. 126

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What do you notice about this prayer? How is healing being spoken of? How might you strengthen this prayer? How might you personalize this prayer?
