

The Hands of Christ the Healer

*“Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons.
Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.”*

— Matthew 10:8

Lord of Heaven and Earth,

Something is loose in this world
We call it disease, illness,
Which separates us from our loved ones,
Which challenges us as we try to live out our lives fully,
Which causes us to suffer deeply and to feel abandoned.

But something else is stirring in your world,
Moving in the hearts of all who call on you.
In the compassion of your people
Are the hands of Christ the Healer.
And it is greater.

Teach us to seek out the ones who suffer among us.
Help us to affirm their dignity,
 To lift them up in care,
 To take up the cross of their suffering.
Empower us in your grace to be healers.

In the face of all darkness,
Claims called AIDS, malaria, cholera,
 Zika, typhus and Ebola
 In defiance of every plague and cancer
Allow us to be your healing power:
More powerful than the serpent’s head in the desert,
More cleansing than the balm in Gilead,
Stronger even than the power that flowed from the hem of your garment.

Empower your Church to be your very healing hands,
Touching every corner of this world.
So we may say to your people,
“You are made whole.”

Amen