

August 21, 2022

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Luke 13:10-17

Healing Reign

For eighteen years the woman in today's story suffered an ailment that kept her bent over and in pain. Jesus knew how to bring healing to the woman who suffered, but those around him wanted him to wait until after the sabbath. Jesus knew that suffering could not wait. If healing was available and ready at once, then it should be enacted.

Look around. What kind of suffering do you see in your region or neighborhood? Is there suffering that has been allowed to linger because it seems that it is never the right time to heal? What kind of healing can you and your congregation bring to those broken places?

Pray this prayer as you open your heart and mind to the suffering in your midst and the healing that might be available to alleviate that suffering.

Jesus, our friend and brother,  
We breathe in and we breathe out.

With each breath in,  
we receive the suffering of our neighbors.  
With each breath out,  
we exhale your healing power.

With each breath in,  
we pray for courage and insight  
With each breath out,  
we become more like you.

With each breath in,  
we feel your strength and clarity  
With each breath out,  
we step forward, reach toward.

Jesus, our friend and brother,  
Guide us, we pray, as we breathe, pray, become, feel, step, reach, heal. Amen.