

# First Presbyterian Church of Byron

January 29, 2012

Season of Epiphany

James Renfrew, Pastor

Elizabeth Weber, Organist

## PRELUDES

## INTROIT

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## VOLUNTEER TESTIMONY

*Eleanor Johnson*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Who needs healing?

*Left Side: Me!*

*Right Side: Me!*

*Both Sides: Me!*

What kind of healing do you hope to find? What needs fixing?

*Cuts and scrapes, pulled muscles and broken bones, colds and flu, mumps and measles, serious diseases.*

That's quite a list.

*And there's more: broken hearts and lost love, mental health and trauma, addictions, bad memories, guilt, and unhealthy feelings that I can't even begin to define.*

Do you think you'll find what you're looking for today?

*We're not sure, but we've heard that Jesus is a healer. Is that true?*

That's what the Bible says. We better take a closer look. The story in today's reading is especially challenging!

*Maybe as challenging as my case?*

We'll find out! Let's look at this together.

*Amen!*

**\*HYMN** #21 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Dear God, today we are looking at one of those Bible stories that makes me feel uncomfortable. It's about healing, and I'm not sure that I believe in this stuff. I mean, I trust in medical science a lot by seeing a doctor, taking medicine and trying to eat well and get good exercise.



The things that Jesus does to help people seem supernatural and beyond my experience. I'd like to believe these things that Jesus did, but it's hard to understand it, much less expect it to really happen. I don't want to seem close-minded, because I am a really optimistic, positive and spiritual person. But these healing stories are over my head. Help me figure it out!

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S ABUNDANT FORGIVENESS

It's in John's Gospel that Jesus asks the question, "Do you want to be healed?" He asks a man who has been suffering with an ailment for thirty eight years. The man tries to give all kinds of explanations, tries to express all of his doubts, but Jesus just asks that one question. Maybe it doesn't solve all of our worries and doubts, but can we at least answer Jesus' question with a "yes"? We need a starting point, he needs a starting point, so let's try it. **Yes! Amen! Yes!**

**\*GLORIA** #142 "Gloria Patri"

**TODAY'S WORSHIP THEME** "Have You Ever Been Sick?"

## \*PEACE OF CHRIST

*(In sharing words of peace, our hopes are rising!)*

**\*HYMN** #35 "Near to the Heart of God"

## PRAYERS OF HEALING & HOPE

*(We welcome your personal prayers. Please stand so everyone can hear you!)*

## OFFERING

It may be Bible stories, it may be doctrine, it may be theology, it may be ritual, or it may be a prayer, but in all of these things its Jesus trying to touch our lives. In our offering we honor and celebrate Jesus' diligence, that he's trying to get our attention, trying to touch our lives, trying to make a difference. And we're already grateful!

## OFFERTORY

## \*DOXOLOGY

## \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(together)*

Dear God, thank you for every opportunity that you give us in Jesus to share our needs and hopes with you. Bless these gifts, though they may be only a small portion of the abundance you give. Bless the givers,

though our hearts may be undeveloped and our minds mixed up. And bless the results of giving, though we may not yet see all the possibilities. In Jesus' name, bless the gifts, givers and results. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE** *Mark 1:21-28*

**MESSAGE:** *"Send Them Packing!"*

**\*WHAT WE BELIEVE** #21 *"The Right Time (Supplement)"*

**\*HYMN** #77 *"Be Still My Soul"*

**\*BLESSING**

**\*RESPONSE** #155 *"Spirit of the Living God"*

**POSTLUDE** \* = please stand, if able

### Announcements

Today: 9:45 AM Worship,  
10:45 AM Annual Meeting in Dining Room, light meal  
Monday: 7:00 PM Membership  
Thursday: 6:30 PM - Meeting of Elders, Deacons & Trustees  
Next Sunday: 9:45 AM Worship & Installation of Church Officers

**Next Week:** Mark 1:29-39 More stories on healing. What is it like when you want something really bad, but you are near the end of a long line?

#### Looking Ahead:

Friday, February 10, 6:00 PM - Potluck Dinner - bring a dish to pass, your own table settings, and favorite game from home

Saturday, February 11, 9:00 AM - Presbytery Leadership Development Day at Perinton Presbyterian Church; courses for elders, deacons and trustees.

Sunday, February 12, 11:00 AM - Spaghetti Dinner Youth Group fundraiser.



# “A New teaching?”

Byron Presbyterian Church  
Byron, New York



Rest Rooms are just beyond the door next to the pulpit.  
Hearing loops are available at the rear of the church.  
An elevator is located at the side entrance.  
Large print bulletins are available at the rear of the church.

## ***Congregational Meeting Today***

Session has scheduled the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation to take place today in the Dining Room, following worship. All members of the church are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

- (1) Hear the report of the 2011 Nominating Committee, Elect new classes of Elders, Trustees and Deacons, and elect congregational representatives on the 2012 Nominating Committee.
- (2) Review the 2011 Financial Statements and the 2012 Proposed Budget
- (3) Hear reports from the various church boards and committees.
- (4) Approve rules proposed by Session with regard to congregational meetings. The adoption of a new Form of Government by the Presbyterian Church USA earlier in the year requires the congregation to codify certain rules. With one exception, these rules maintain previous practices. The January-February church newsletter includes a summary of these proposed changes.

Become a member of our **Prayer Chain!** Get added as a link by calling **Laura Platt** (548-2245) or **Jean Roda** (548-2417), and we will notify you of prayer concerns in our church and community. You can also call Laura or Jean to add your own prayer.

Please support our **emergency food donation** box each week! Peanut butter, crackers, juice boxes, canned fruits and vegetables are always needed, as well as grocery bags. Food items are sent each week to the Emergency Food Shelf of Genesee County Churches United at the Salvation Army in Batavia. You may deposit items in the box at the back of the sanctuary, or in the grocery cart at the side entrance.