

Pastor #1: In those days a woman didn't dare go out in public except with her husband, and a woman didn't dare present herself to a man. A woman wouldn't dare even touch a man at all. And yet this woman dared to risk being in public alone reaching out and touching Jesus; she had everything to lose. She had all that society had that day she had at stake. And yet they were willing to risk. How daring and bold, how risky were their moves, and how absolutely necessary is it for us to be willing to make the same kinds of risks if we hope to gain the end result of being made whole. We have to be willing to put ourselves totally and completely in the power and in the grace and in the caring of someone else. Sometimes that someone is with a little s, and sometimes that someone is with a capital S. There is power in touch. It's not just coincidental that Jesus felt the touch of this woman, nor that he touched the little girl and made her come back to life. Then and now, there is unbelievable and incredible, and yes, inexplicable power in touch. For all of us there are moments of touch. From a friend or a mate or a child or a parent, from a doctor or a nurse, a roommate, or even from a stranger, there is a touch that will heal or make us whole and endure and sustain. Long after that person may have gone out of sight and long after the words may have fallen from our ears, we will still feel and know the power of that touch. There is blessing in touch. There is grace in touch. There is love in touch. There is wholeness for you and me in the touch which comes from God. And to God be the glory and the power and the majesty now and forever more. And let the people say amen and amen.

Pastor #2: Let us rise and affirm our faith. I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who is conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead and buried. The third day He rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. (organ music)
(congregation sings)

Pastor #2: Gracious God, having come into your presence, having heard your word, having felt the healing touch of your presence upon our disordered lives, we now intercede for others. We pray that the world may live in peace. We intercede for the American hostages, and for their captors. For Lebanese of every religion and political conviction, that they might lay down their arms and work as fervently for peace as they have made war. We pray for all ministers and teachers of the church, that they may be faithful servants of the Gospel, leading others to your truth and strengthening their faith. Particularly we pray for the ministry of your servant Robert Young, giving thanks for his witness here in this chapel and asking for your blessing upon his continuing ministry. We pray for the leaders of this nation, asking for them the patience to pursue peaceful means of settling international crises, and courage in the face of shrill calls for retribution and violence. We pray for those who are sick, for those who are facing serious surgery, those who are confronting the choice of whether or not to place someone they love within a nursing home or an institution for the mentally ill. As Lord of the Healing Touch, we know your compassion for those who suffer in body or spirit. We pray for families on vacation, blessed time of rest from the rigors of routine and daily toil. May they

be recreated in your image, rediscovering one another and the beauties of nature and the fun of far-away places and time to relax and enjoy. We pray for the poor, the millions who are hungry. Countless mothers who see their children perish from disease and hunger, brothers and sisters for whom this good world is reduced to unending misery. How absurd is it of us, oh God, to come to you with such boldness, such a list of impossible petitions. No more absurd, dear God, than Jairus coming to Jesus asking for the healing touch for his beloved daughter. We come in such bold, presumptuous faith, asking the same healing touch which made her whole, that it might also heal our troubled world. Amen. And now let us respond of the goodness of God with our gifts for the work of God. (choir sings) (organ music) (congregation sings)

Pastor #3: Eternal God, who dwells in high places as well as the hearts of those who are humble. We have gathered once again gratefully to acknowledge the healing power of thy touch in our lives. Our spirits rejoice at the abundance of thy blessings. Thy goodness hath created us, thy patience hath borne with us, thy love hath redeemed us. Give us heart to love and serve thee, and enable us to show our gratitude by giving our lives completely unto thy service. These things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray with confidence. Our Father, who art in Heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen. (organ music) (congregation sings)

Pastor #2: The Lord bless you and keep you, Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious under you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and grant you peace. (choir sings) (organ music) (indistinct crowd sounds) (organ music) (indistinct crowd sounds)