



and healing presence in THEIR STORIES!

Our theme is "**Come to the Healing Waters**," and our potential texts are all stories or readings in which God is working life or healing or renewal through water. They may or may not echo your particular story. **If there is one that does grab you, by all means, let me know so that we can include it as part of the service.**

The tricky thing about considering God's hand in healing is that sometimes it becomes visible in literal and physical ways. And sometimes it doesn't. A wise mentor of mine once told me—and I have seen this to be true throughout my ministry, as well—"Some of the most well people I have ever known have also been the sickest." Even if not literally or medically healed, those people came to a sense of wellness through their relationship with God.

You very well might interpret healing in a variety of other nuanced ways. Having one's mind changed could be described as "healing." Realizing that I am a different person from the one I used to be could be described as "healing." Being overwhelmed with mercy and grace could be described as healing. **YOU get to interpret that as you will.**

Again, thank you for your consideration and willingness. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

--Pastor Mike

Possible "Healing Water" texts:

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| Noah & the Flood—Gen. 7-9 | (<input type="checkbox"/> a story about being overwhelmed and washed by mercy and grace; (<input type="checkbox"/> a story of being saved in a hopeless situation |
| The Red Sea—Exodus 14:5-31 | (<input type="checkbox"/> another story of being saved in a hopeless situation; (<input type="checkbox"/> a story about being moved from one place to another, even through hardship, literally, or even through a "change of heart or mind." |
| Exodus 15:22-27 | (<input type="checkbox"/> a story about God providing, or quenching thirst |
| 2 Kings 5:1-15 | (<input type="checkbox"/> a story in which a skeptic is healed |
| Psalm 1:1-3 | (<input type="checkbox"/> a song about being nourished by God, perhaps even through "dry" times |
| Psalm 18:1-19 | (<input type="checkbox"/> a song about being "plucked" from overwhelming waters, in an otherwise hopeless situation. |
| Psalm 23 (esp. verses 1 & 2) | (<input type="checkbox"/> a song about nourishing, soothing, calm, peaceful waters, even with v. 4 looming |
| Psalm 32:1-6 | (<input type="checkbox"/> a song or prayer about being forgiven, so that you may "get wet" but not "washed away." |

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| Psalm 63:1-8 | (<input type="checkbox"/> a song or prayer that describes God's love and presence like soothing water in the desert |
| Jonah and the Whale—Jonah 1:1-2:10 | (<input type="checkbox"/> another story of being saved in a hopeless situation; <input type="checkbox"/> a story of “running from God” but being preserved by God and returning to God, even through hardship <input type="checkbox"/> a story about being rescued, as if from drowning |
| Peter & Jesus on the sea Matthew 14:22-33 | (<input type="checkbox"/> a story about God holding one up in the midst of fear, as in a raging storm <input type="checkbox"/> a story about a friend’s faith that helped carry you through a trial |
| Jesus heals a blind man—John 9 | (<input type="checkbox"/> an actual healing |

Some possible suggestions and/or questions for guiding your faith story:

1. Is there a text from above that resonates with you? Is there another piece of Scripture that grabs you? (Please let me know so we can include it in the service.) *If not, don’t worry about it.*
2. Simply tell your story—that will be one of the things that people will be most eager to hear.
3. If you selected a reading in #1 or have another piece of Scripture that has been meaningful to you as a part of your story, in what way would you connect your story and the reading together?
4. Looking back in your story, are there ways that you might describe or interpret “where God was” healing, protecting, preserving, providing, etc.?
5. Looking back in your story, are there particular people you might describe or interpret as being “God sends” in your life?