



ANOINTING

James 5:13-16 (NRSV)

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

▶ **WHY DO WE ANOINT?**

We anoint one another by gathering with people who are ill, hurting, struggling with decisions or beginning a new phase of life. Our presence, together with the oil and prayers, represents the healing and comfort of Jesus. By anointing one another we trust that God hears our prayers and works for the good of the one we lift in prayer.

▶ **WHAT'S WITH THE OIL?**

Oil has many uses and meanings. It is an ointment for healing our skin. It has been used to consecrate kings, leaders and even new followers of Jesus. Putting a touch of oil on someone's head prayerfully assures us of God's healing, constant presence with us as followers of Jesus.

