

**Outdoors Healing Ceremony
for Charlie & Community
September 11, 6 pm**

[Perhaps drumming by friend Al or instrumental music for meditative mindset]

Marybeth--Welcome:

We welcome you all and are so grateful for each of you. Each of you has been part of the circle of love and support for Charlie and Kiki and Janet, Maddie, Dmi, and Evy, and all of Charlie's brothers and sister and in-laws.

Maddie--Family Thanks:

Each of you have been doing the work of healing over these last three years, praying and holding my dad and our family up with a myriad of kindnesses – tending to his medical needs, cleaning, bringing food, repairing things, weeding and planting beautiful pots, mowing the lawn, watching animals, helping with weddings. And we've been told how each of these acts have brought you inner joy to be able to help. We're so grateful. We know this is how love in action works. These have not been and are not empty acts of charity but lifegiving acts of being part of God's community of love.

Marybeth--Gathering Intention:

We have all come together here to pray over and with Charlie and his family and for each other in the name of the Lord. And we are being joined by a circle of people in this world and the next who cannot be here physically but are with us.

Dmitri--Christ's Assurance:

Jesus promised, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am also." So in the model of the early Christians we gather. And we thank you, Lord, for being here among us.

Evy--Our Commission:

You commissioned us to bring healing and acts of kindness with our lives. In Matthew 10: 11 it says: "*And he called to Him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction*".

Maddie--St. James's Direction:

In James 5:14-15, writing to the early Christians, St. James counsels:

"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well."

Marybeth--Our Shared Thanksgiving (with all joining in on response):

So we follow your lead and your commission. We humbly remember that all that we have and all that we are is held in loving existence at every moment by you, the Infinite, Mysterious Creator of the Universe. We know you sent us you Son to show us that love. Oh Lord, to pray for the miracle of healing, we begin as you always did, in Thankfulness. We thank you, Oh God, for all your goodness and for always hearing our prayers. We thank our Mother Mary and St. Joseph, and all the angels and saints, as well as family and friends who are in heaven who have been with us through this journey.

We give You thanks!

We thank You Loving Creator for the gift of Charlie. Only You could have dreamed him up and nurtured him into the man he is! And we thank you for his mother and father and siblings, who raised him, and for his wife, Kiki, and her mother and father and siblings, and for Charlie and Kiki's their children and their spouses, Maddie and Michael, Dmitri and Claire, Evy and her boyfriend, Owen.

We give You thanks!

We thank you for all the medical staff who have so valiantly and consistently worked to fight the cancer within his body and keep him with us. You have wrought through their hands many miracles already, keeping him with us all this time, fighting those cancerous cells. And we thank you for the example that Charlie and his family have offered us in their solid and continuing belief in You through trials. We thank you for Charlie's ongoing messages and examples of faith that have inspired all of us on Caring Bridge.

We give You thanks!

Together we want to thank the medical staff and Dave Urban for his healing touch sessions and all the outreach of healing touches by all of you and others over these three years and months that have aided Charlie and his family up to this point. We thank the larger community of people praying with us wherever they are and all who have showered this family with acts of kindness. You have all been channeling God's love.

We give thanks for each other.

So we begin in deep gratitude for the miracles You, Our Holy Father and Creator and Jesus have already done. Let us sing together: "Now Thank We All Our God".

Singing Together

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
To keep us in this grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills in this world, till the next!*

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest Heaven—
The one eternal God, Whom Heav'n and earth adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.*

Dmitri--Scriptural Reading

Now let us share a reading from Mark 2:1-5, 9, 11-12

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."...

...Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'?... So he said to the man, ¹¹ "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Marybeth—Introduction of Laying on of Hands:

We are the friends and family members bringing Charlie to you, Lord, the Infinite Mysterious Creator of the universe for the miracle of healing. We know that you heal mind, heart, and spirit all together.

LAYING ON OF HANDS:

Charlie, can you please sit and have your family members (including your mom and siblings if present and comfortable doing so) each lay a hand on you. Then, for those comfortable doing so, please lay a hand on the shoulder or arm of one of the family members or on the shoulder of someone nearer to the center.

We want be a loving web, connected outward from the center, channeling love and healing energies to Charlie. If you'd prefer not to participate in the hands-on, simply step back so others will know, and we know you are channeling in your own ways. We also feel there is a thin veil between this world and the next, and we will be asking all our friends and family

members, saints and angels and kindred spirits to join us in asking for this healing along with those who are praying from wherever they are.

Dave Urban—Leading Healing Touch:

Dear Lord,

You have been the great healer and have asked us to be healers in You too. We ask today that You come in a special way to bring healing to Charlie and his family.

When one does healing touch, one calls upon their guardian angels, spirit guides, saints and blessed Mary. We ask those gathered here today to call upon their spiritual helpers to magnify that same healing. In a healing touch session, we focus our attention to specific areas where there is cancer, fatigue, and anguish.

Today we also ask for divine intervention to kill the cancer in those same areas and bring back all the life producing cells within him. We pray that today's magnified healing energies through the gathering of two or more in Jesus's name in our acts of supplication will let the cancer cells be overwhelmed and to keep them forever at bay from reproducing. Bring healing to Charlie's liver and to his lymph nodes and to his lungs and to his stomach and to all parts of his body where cancer may have spread or is trying to spread. Please ease the pain he has been feeling and help him to sleep at night.

We ask that this healing energy that we are feeling now continue to stay with Charlie and his family after we go from here.

You God who "make all things new" please continue to bring healing and new life within the body and cells of Charlie, bring new life to his spirit and to those of his family members who are tired and doing their best to assist and support and keep living as they watch his daily suffering. So Lord, we also ask for a miracle cure of this cancer. And to continue to bless the medical community who have tended so faithfully for his greater good. We ask for healing of all aspects of Charlie's body and mind and spirit, and for each of his family members.

We ask for your healing energies to come to all of us who are gathered, healing what is needed for the restoration of our spirits too. We thank you ahead of time because we know you will hear us and act in ways we can't imagine.

In all things, please help us discern our next steps. When choosing the paths, let it always be from a heart at peace because we know that your true wisdom only resides there.

Lord, if it is not your will to rid Charlie of his cancer, then help us feel your peace and presence in all that comes. Be still and know that I am God.

PAUSE FOR SILENT PRAYERS Flowing to Charlie

Maddie--Introduction of Musical Mediation

Thank you, Lord, for whatever forms of healing you send, even those that aren't what we envision. You can all relax your hands now as we listen to "Heal me O Lord". You are welcome to sing along.

Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed.

Save me and I will be saved.

Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed.

Save me and I will be saved.

For You are the one I praise, you are the one I praise.

Dmitri--Introduction of Laying on of Hands/Prayers for Others

Through this journey of my dad and our family, some close friends and family members have also been sorely afflicted. If there are any here who would like special healing prayers, please make your way to the center at this time. Please do not feel shy or self-conscious, as we are all here for you. But don't feel pressured either [time for rearrangement of the circle]

Let us pray silently for those now in the center and also for those desiring prayers, but uncomfortable being at the center or who are not present. Hold them in your hearts and minds and sending healing energies to them.

{PAUSE for Silent prayers flowing through the hands and hearts.}

Again, we thank you, Lord, for whatever forms of healing you send, even those that aren't what we envision. Now let us rest.

Evy--Invocations for Healing for the World (with all joining in on response)

Finally, let us pray together for the healing needed in our world, nation, community, and in our own hearts and for those we care for. Feel free to say a name out loud or in the quiet of your heart at each pause. The refrain after each petition is:

Please send healing Lord, and help us be part of passing your healing on.

For all those in pain and suffering from illness of mind, body, and spirit, including mental struggles and addiction. Please take a moment to call them to mind and either say their first names or say them silently. For them we offer our prayers of healing. In your name we pray.

Please send healing Lord, and help us be part of passing your healing on.

For healing of division between faith and cultures, to see that you God are Creator of all and flow through us all. Help us see You in all, respect You in all, love You in all, and to be slow to cast aspersions on those who live and practice faith differently than us.

Please send healing Lord, and help us be part of passing your healing on.

For healing in our nation, help heal our divisions and let your Spirit shine forth, binding us in what matters to You.

Please send healing Lord, and help us be part of passing your healing on.

For all those globally who are harmed by violence, exploitation, greed, war, and conflict, that they find safety and healing through liberation, community, restoration, and the strength, peace and courage that only You can provide.

Please send healing Lord, and help us be part of passing your healing on.

For those who seek refuge, that we welcome them into our communities, knowing that welcoming refugees is what You would do, and remembering that You were also a refugee.

Please send healing Lord, and help us be part of passing your healing on.

For those far away and close to home who are experiencing hunger, thirst or homelessness, that we be the ones to feed and house them and support those who work to ensure that people's basic needs are met.

Please send healing Lord, and help us be part of passing your healing on.

For all those who work to bring medical and mental healing to this world.

Please send healing Lord, and help us be part of passing your healing on.

For this earth you've given, that we may be good stewards of your creation and help in its healing.

Please send healing Lord, and help us be part of passing your healing on.

And finally, for healing of our hearts, we ask that You would bless us with discomfort...at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts. Bless us with anger...at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace. Bless us with tears...to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and to turn their pain to joy. And may You bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in the world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

We know you hear us---thank you, Lord and Great Loving Spirit and Creator.

Al Kuhn--Final Prayer: Let us pray together this ending prayer:

*Oh, Great Spirit, Creator of Us All
Whose voice we hear in the winds
and whose breath gives life to all the world.
Hear us! We need your strength and wisdom.
Let us walk in beauty, and make our eyes
ever hold the grace of the red and purple sunset.*

*Make our hands respect the things You have made
and our ears sharp to hear Your voice.
Make us wise so that we may understand
the things You have taught.
Let us learn the lessons You have present
in all creation, in each other, and in Your Son.*

*Help us remain calm and strong in the
face of all that comes towards us.
Help us find compassion overwhelming us.
We seek strength, not to be greater than our brothers and sisters,
but to fight our greatest enemy: ourselves and our narrowness of sight and spirit.*

*Make us always ready to come to You
with clean hands and straight eyes.
So when life fades, as the fading sunset,
our spirits may come to you without shame
And meet You in person in rejoicing.*

{Based on a prayer that was translated by Lakota Sioux Chief Yellow Lark in 1887, taken from the Jesuit Resources site: <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/native-american> }

Al Kuhn: Healing Prayer in Objive

Marybeth--Closing Song

Thank you all for your prayers and for being here and for all that you have done and are doing.
May God's abundant blessings flow to you and your families, in you and around you.

Finally let us go forth in singing: **“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is our health and salvation!
Come, all who hear; now to His temple draw near,
join me in glad adoration.*

*Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning;
sheltering you under His wings, and so gently sustaining!
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by God’s gracious ordaining?*

*Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely God’s goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with God’s love He befriends you.*

*(interlude of “Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee)
Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee. God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee. Op’ning to the Sun above.*

*Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him.
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again.
Gladly forever adore Him*