

Health Advocacy Resources for Worship
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In *The United Methodist Hymnal*

Dear Lord, for all in pain	Amy Carmichael	458	Prayer for ill, caregivers, terminally ill
For the healing of the nations	Fred Kaan	428	Verse 1 especially, for sending
Heal me, hands of Jesus	Michael Perry	262	Prayer for individual wholeness; sing to TERRA BEATA
Heal us, Emmanuel	William Cowper	266	Biblical stories, prayer for today; sing to AMAZING GRACE
O Christ, the healer	Fred Pratt Green	265	Wholeness in Christ
Send me, Lord	South African	497	Prayer for God's wholeness and sending
Silence, frenzied, unclean spirit	Thomas H. Troeger	264	Biblical story, mental/emotional illness
There is a balm in Gilead	Afro-American spiritual	375	Refrain especially, reminder of God's healing
When Jesus the healer	Peter D. Smith	263	Biblical stories & prayer for today; semi-refrains

In *The Faith We Sing*

An outcast among outcasts	Richard D. Leach	2104	Biblical story, the 1 who gave thanks/10 healed
God weeps	Shirley E. Murray	2048	Lament, especially verses 3 & 4, need for change
Here am I like a child	Brian Wren Dan Damon	2178 2092	Christ in the marginalized, call to our action Jesus came as a child in need and comes again
This thread I weave	Shirley E. Murray	2185	Small things we all can do for God in the world
Unsettled world	David Sparks	2183	Especially verses 2 & 3, call to hear and live
Wounded world that cries for healing	Shirley E. Murray	2177	Prayer for health and caring for all; may also be sung to HYFRYDOL

Like a pleading widow Ruth Duck Pilgrim Press, 1996 need Onelicense <http://www.onelicense.net/> (not CCLI)

“Sound the alarm” – litany or prayer with handbells, chimes, shofar, trumpet blast, noisemakers, clapping (page 10)

Collect (noun, accent on 1st syllable) form:

1. Name God with adjective or “of” phrase
2. Praise God for that characteristic
3. Ask for what is needed
4. Tell God how you will use the request granted
5. Praise the Trinity—Three in One, One in Three

Example:

Healing God,
 who sent Jesus on a ministry of caring and healing:
 Help us find ways for wholeness and healing for all your children
 that your hopes for us might be realized in all places,
 God of life, Christ of compassion, and Spirit of justice. **Amen.**

Social holiness

Write a new verse for a hymn if (a) it doesn't say all you mean or (b) you are without books and need simple songs

Inclusive—Affordable—Accessible—Accountable—Ask (Learn, Pray, Work)—All means all

Some questions for worshipping if you are serious about health care advocacy and justice:

1. Are your building, sanctuary, and restrooms accessible for all persons?
2. Are all persons welcome in worship, no matter their age or physical or mental condition?
3. Is it clear in worship that God loves all of us, just the way we are?
4. Is it clear in worship that God has hopes for all of us to become more whole and more holy?
5. Is it clear in worship that God cares about justice and defines success differently than the world does?

In worship we meet God—know our true selves—find love and community—are empowered to work for God's reign.

The following verses were written to the tune of “Kum ba yah” by attendees of the Health Advocacy workshop at Lakeside, June 2009, West Ohio Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Health care that is inclusive:

Hear us, Lord, we sing, kum ba yah,
Young and old, O Lord, kum ba yah,
Poor and rich, O Lord, kum ba yah,
O Lord, care for all.

Health care that is affordable:

We need healing, Lord, kum ba yah,
But it cost so much, O my Lord.
Help us meet the cost, kum ba yah,
O Lord, meet the need.

Abundance, Lord, comes from you,
You’re abundant, Lord, we call on you.
Provide for all, Lord, kum ba yah.
O Lord, we trust in you.

Health care that is accessible:

Open wide the doors, kum ba yah,
Break down barriers, kum ba yah,
Open hearts, my Lord, kum ba yah,
Share the word, kum ba yah.

Health care that is accountable:

Someone’s hurting, Lord, kum ba yah (3x),
Keep us loving, Lord, kum ba yah. *Or* Keep us honest, Lord, kum ba yah.

*This group suggested additional verses, with the appropriate honest or loving using in place of Someone’s:
Doctors, Nurses, insurance Companies, Activists, Government, Churches*

Asking for health care, learning, praying, acting:

Someone’s asking, Lord, kum ba yah.
Someone’s learning, Lord, kum ba yah.
Someone’s praying, Lord, kum ba yah.
Someone’s learning, Lord, kum ba yah.

Health care for all, means all:

No more barriers, Lord, All means all! (3x)
O Lord, all means all!

At the end of worship, or for moving from worship to action:

There is need, O Lord, we will pray,

There is need, O Lord, we will go,

There is need, O Lord, we will act,

Be with us, Lord, on your half.