

## A Sample "Bells For Remembrance" Service

**Leader:** We are grateful for all those who have worked to make this "Bells for Remembrance" day a possibility. It is our hope that, as a result of today's efforts, the lives of many women will be spared, and the lives of many families enriched.

**Leader:** Blessed be God, source of all mercy and comfort, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. As we share in the suffering of others, so by God's mercy do we share abundantly in comfort also.

(Name) will ring the first bell in memory of those who have lost their lives to breast cancer. After the bell is rung, we will pray silently for these persons and their families.\*\*

🔔 RING BELL 🔔

(After a pause, the person who rang the bell says)  
Let us pray: Ever-loving and caring God, we are humbled by the mysteries of life and death. Help us to accept what we cannot understand, to have faith where reason fails, to have courage in the midst of disappointment. Comfort all who grieve with the knowledge that you also grieve in the face of death, but are the Lord of life and Conqueror of death. Amen.

**Leader:** (Name) will ring the second bell in honor of those who are fighting breast cancer. After the bell is rung, we will pray silently for these persons and their families.

🔔 RING BELL 🔔

(After a pause, the person who rang the bell says)

Let us pray: Almighty God, we pray your blessing of healing for these whom we name aloud or before you in our hearts (pause). We come humbly to you, believing that you want to know the desires of your children, but recognizing that the mystery of healing is beyond our understanding. We pray for these whom we've named, that they may have courage when they're afraid, strength when they are weak, patience when they are afflicted, and hope when they are lost and alone. Amen.

**Leader:** Name will ring the third bell as a reminder to all of us to continue to pray for those who fight cancer and as a reminder to us to make sure that those we love get their annual mammograms!

🔔 RING BELL 🔔

(After a pause, the person who rang the bell says)  
Let us pray: Holy God, we are most afraid of the unknown. You cannot heal what we do not share with you. Heal us Lord, of our fears. Help us to welcome as partners in healing from fear these who are survivors, whose lives are filled with such love and laughter. Pour out your grace on all of those who seek to find a cure for cancer, and for those whose lives are dedicated to this effort because of personal loss. Strengthen us as we leave this place to do what we can to live lives of wholeness, so that all in the world may know the wholeness that comes from you. Amen.

**Leader:** Now, go in peace, and may the God of peace go with you.

\*This is a sample service, adapted from the Christian service used by St. Luke United Methodist Church of Columbus, Georgia in May, 2000. It was based on Prayers for healing from a variety of sources. Special thanks to Reverend Cindy Gerrard for sharing this with the Breast Health Connection of Georgia.

\*\*The person asked to ring the bells were: The adult child of a victim of breast cancer, a survivor, and the spouse of a survivor.