



LIVE THE PROMISE: HIV AND AIDS CAMPAIGN

COMMEMORATION OF WORLD AIDS DAY

1 DECEMBER 2013

Introduction

This World AIDS Day service seeks to celebrate God's love for us, who has sustained us during the three decades of living with HIV and AIDS in our world, communities and churches. It celebrates all that has been achieved. It also seeks to encourage renewal and rededication towards the ministry of serving in the HIV and AIDS positive world, for the vision to have "Zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS related deaths" is consistent with our faith in God our creator and Jesus our savior. In preparation for the service, one needs candles, a potted-plant, water and/or preparation for serving the Lord's Supper. One must also prepare readers and leaders for the various parts of the service.

Whenever possible, the Howard Lukhele collage, used with permission from Art for AIDS International, can be displayed electronically or printed onto posters and t-shirts. It depicts two hands holding a baby, with a splatter of clear waters. The collage will be interpreted differently by various people, but it underlines God's protective hands, the springs of living water, as well as calling worshipers to build safe (justice-loving) families, regions, countries and continents. The collage underlines the theme of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS related deaths.



Call to Worship

Creator God, shine your light upon us.
Savior of the world, quench our thirst with your living waters.
Spirit of power and fire, renew our strength.

Opening Song: *Oh Lord my God when I am in awesome wonder*

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God; to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God; to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die-I scarce can take it in
that on the cross, our burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away our sin;

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home-what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim: My God, how great thou art!

(Stuart K. Hine, 1885)

Participatory Scripture Reading: Genesis 1

READER 1¹

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth
The earth was formless and void...
Then God said, "Let there be light."
And there was light...

ALL: *And God saw that the light was good.*

READER 2

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of waters..."
"Let the waters under the sky be gathered together in one place,
And let the dry land appear"
And it was so...

ALL: *And God saw that it was good.*

READER 3

Then God said, "let the earth put forth vegetation
Plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth"
And it was so...

ALL: *And God saw that it was good.*

READER 4

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky...
Let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years..."
And it was so...

ALL: *And God saw that it was good.*

READER 5

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures
Let the birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky..."
So God created...

ALL: *And God saw that it was good.*

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind..."
And it was so...

ALL: *And God saw that it was good.*

READER 6

Then God said, "Let us make humankind
In our image, according to our likeness..."
So God created humankind in God's own image
In the Image of God, God created them
Male and female God created them...

ALL: *God blessed them...*

READER 7

And God said, Be fruitful and multiply
And fill the earth ...
'See, I have given you
Every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of the earth
And every tree with seed in its fruit
You shall have them for food...
And it was so...

ALL: *God saw everything that God had made
And indeed it was VERY good.*

CHORUS: *We are walking in the Light of God (South African chorus)*



Paul Jeffrey/EAA

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

LEADER 1: (Lighting a candle)

Creator God, you are beautiful in your created world.

ALL

You are beautiful in the trees that swing and in the wind that blows.
You are beautiful in the stars that shine and in the sun that rises and sets.

LEADER 1

Creator God, you are beautiful in the animals that creep and roar.

ALL

You are beautiful in the faces of our families, friends--in all people.
The earth and the heavens tell of your beauty and goodness.

CHORUS: *We are walking in the Light of God*

LEADER 2: (Lighting another candle)

Creator God, on this World AIDS Day
We remember that we have been living with HIV for 32 years.

ALL

We remember that we are a world living with HIV.
We remember the courage and challenges of living with HIV.

LEADER 2

Creator God, on this World AIDS Day
We remember that you have not brought us this far to leave us.

ALL

We remember, oh Lord, that you will never leave us or forsake us.
We remember that you will always be with us.

PAUSE TO LIGHT CANDLES: *At this point, the congregation may be invited to silently light candles for orphaned children, people living with HIV, caregivers, activists, committed leaders, those who have gone to be with the Lord, and others.*

CHORUS: *We are walking in the Light of God*

LEADER 3: (Lighting another candle)

Creator God, on this World AIDS Day
We thank you, for you continue to create the earth and the heavens.

ALL

Your hand continues to create us from a formless void and darkness.
Your hand continues to create order and interconnection in your creation.

LEADER 3

Creator God, on this World AIDS Day
We thank you, for you continue to light the world with your presence.

ALL

Your healing light shines through our bodies and communities.
Your healing light embraces us, testifying of your unfailing presence.

CHORUS: *We are walking in the Light of God*

LEADER 4: (Lighting another candle)

Creator God, on this World AIDS Day
We thank you, for you have honored every person with your image.

ALL

We thank you, for we see your image in all of us, in all people.
We see your image in us, people living with and affected by HIV.

LEADER 4

Creator God, on this World AIDS Day
We thank you for the HIV and AIDS caregivers, activists, professionals, planners and leaders.

ALL

We thank you, for in their work, Oh God, you continue to light the world with your love.
We thank you for the medicines that have prevented deaths, saved children from becoming orphans, and restored health.

CHORUS: *We are walking in the Light of God*

Prayers of Confession and Rededication

SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 4: 1-15

(After the reading, a short sermon may be preached)

CHORUS: *Spirit of the living God*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.

(Daniel Iverson, 1926)

ALL: *A Prayer of Repentance*

Creator God, we repent, for we have sinned against you and your creation.
While you made all creation sacred and very good
We have marred your creation; we have not kept the whole creation sacred.

Creator God, we repent, for while you created all people in your image
We have denied millions of people their God-given dignity, due their identities,
differences and HIV status.

Creator God, we repent, for while you gave resources to all people
We have denied millions food, medicine and justice
We have made many vulnerable to HIV infection and sent millions
To preventable deaths

Forgive us Lord, and renew our commitment to your sacred justice and love of creation.

CHORUS: *Spirit of the living God*

LEADER 1: *(Using water, pour it on a potted plant)*

Merciful God, on this World AIDS Day
Renew our energy and light us afresh with your light of love.

ALL

Renew our energy, for 35 million of us are living with HIV.
Renew our energy, for 62% of us who need medicine for HIV, still await access.

LEADER 1

Merciful God, on this World AIDS Day
Fill us with reverence for your sacred creation.

ALL

Fill us with your spirit to proclaim justice to the oppressed and marginalized.
Fill us with the courage to build structures of justice within our families and communities.

CHORUS: Spirit of the Living God

FACE TO FACE: *Holding the hands of your neighbor and looking at them, say:*

"I have seen you
I have seen your eyes, eyes like mine
I have seen God in your eyes
I have heard you
I have heard God in your voice"

Sharing of water with one another or the Lord's Supper

(Sharing of water comes from the John 4 scripture reading and symbolizes the water of life that Jesus gives. Participants can give each other a glass of water to drink, but you are free to design the sharing in the way that best suits your sharing. Try to avoid using bottled water, since that communicates individuality rather than sharing.)

Song: Shine Jesus Shine

Lord, the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of darkness shining
Jesus, light of the world shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

ALL: *A Prayer of Repentance*

*Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Fathers glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your word
Lord, and let there be light*

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence
From the shadows into Your radiance
By the blood I may enter Your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me, shine on me

(Graham Kendrick, 1987)

A Closing Prayer of Praise

Creator God

We thank you for the gift of life, for the sacred touch and spark in all life.

Help us to celebrate it, to live, to protect it, to maintain it.

Help us to be good custodians of life; to be good stewards of your resources.

Help us to fight against all the social injustices that mar the beauty of your creation.

Help us to respond to HIV and AIDS and prevent its plunder on life and its quality

Renew our strength and commitment to your created world.

Creator God, grant us another day, another season, another year to life,

So we can live in praise of your loving touch and creative hand of life.

Creator God, pour your spirit of power and fire upon us,

Quench our thirst with the springs of your living waters

So we can proclaim the good news to the poor and oppressed

This we pray, in Jesus name. Amen.

Liturgy prepared by Prof. Musa W. Dube, University of Botswana.

¹ This participatory reading, together with some aspects of this service order first appeared in Musa W: Dube, ed. *Africa Praying: A Handbook on HIV&AIDS Sensitive Sermon Guidelines and Liturgy*, Geneva: WCC, 2003, pp.88-95.

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