

## **Worship Resource for World AIDS Day Dec. 1, 2009**

### **Introduction**

This worship resource is designed to help with the planning of a special service corresponding to World AIDS Day, December 1.

World AIDS Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of the HIV virus.

MCC's Generations at Risk program is making a difference in the lives of people around the world affected and infected by HIV. MCC supports children orphaned by the disease, provides spiritual, medical and psycho-social care for those living with illness, offers programs on prevention and education in order to stop the spread of the virus and links people, families and communities together in a joint effort to confront and eradicate the pandemic. Root causes of HIV/AIDS are addressed by confronting issues of poverty, gender inequality, insufficient medical care and other injustices in order to bring about hope through sustainable positive change. Please consider marking World AIDS Day in a special way, in your congregation this year.

### **Songs & Hymns**

(The following suggestions are from Hymnal: A Worship Book.)

HWB 377 Healer of our every ill  
HWB 144 Kyrie eleison  
HWB 434 Thuma Mina  
HWB 362 Help us to help each other  
    Siyahamba  
HWB 178 Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

### **Prayers**

(The following prayer is from [Christian Aid](#).) (

God of enduring hope and vibrant life,  
be with us all as we live with HIV/AIDS. Help us struggle in love and anger toward a better world:  
where poverty is a word from history,  
global trade works to benefit us all,  
and our blood is forever free from HIV/AIDS. Without your grace such life is impossible;  
without our actions such hope is improbable;  
give us the vision to make such a world imaginable. Through Jesus  
Amen

*Nicky Nicholls*

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(The following prayers are from [National Episcopal AIDS Coalition \(NEAC\)](#)\*)

Merciful God,  
we remember before you all who are sick this day,  
and especially all persons with AIDS or HIV infection.  
Give them courage to live with their disease.  
Help them to face and overcome their fears.  
Be with them when they are alone or rejected.  
Comfort them when they are discouraged.  
And touch them with your healing Spirit that they may find and possess eternal life,  
now and forever.

**Sermon Resource links:**

South African Council of Churches - Two sample sermon outlines -

<http://www.sacc.org.za/docs/AIDSermon.html>

The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee- A variety of worship resources including links to a number of sample sermons -

[http://www.crwrc.org/pages/crwrc\\_worshipresources.cfm](http://www.crwrc.org/pages/crwrc_worshipresources.cfm)

Presbyterian Church - Sermon notes - <http://www.pcusa.org/aids-international/downloads/HIV-AIDSSermonandService.pdf>

Sample Worship Service:

The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee - Sample worship service "Embrace AIDS" -

[http://www.crcna.org/site\\_uploads/uploads/crwrc/ea/resources/EA\\_Worship%20booklet.pdf](http://www.crcna.org/site_uploads/uploads/crwrc/ea/resources/EA_Worship%20booklet.pdf)

Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance - A number of Services – <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hiv aids/resources/>

**Benediction:**

Go out into the world and take with you  
The hope of God our creator who in love  
Created a world where all would be whole  
and longs for that wholeness to be restored.  
The hope of Jesus who touched and ate with the broken  
And offered them healing as he offers us now.  
In the hope of the Spirit who inspires and guides and energizes  
us in times of apathy and despair  
To work to bring all God's people into oneness and health.

*Eildon Dyer*