



National Week of Prayer  
for the Healing of AIDS


# WHO WILL BREAK THE SILENCE?

LITURGICAL RESOURCES  
FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS

#NWPHA #PowerOfThePulpit

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THE  
BALM   
IN  
GILEAD™

**The Balm In Gilead, Inc.**  
by The Prayer Group

**Who Will Break the Silence?**  
**Liturgical Resources**  
**for the Healing of AIDS**

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# *A Message Pernessa C. Seele*

Founder & Chief Executive Officer  
The Balm In Gilead, Inc.



Dear Friends!

Breaking silence can be a most frightening and exhilarating experience. I am eternally thankful for the footprints of "silence breakers" whose echoed voices continue to shape and re-shape our lives. May those of us who have chosen to become "silence breakers" in this HIV/AIDS war be eternally guided by the light and wisdom of those who have gone before us.

The Balm In Gilead, Inc. wishes to thank "The Prayer Group" and all those who were an integral part of the development this magnificent work. We will always be grateful to the talent of Donna Price, Moore Creative Marketing and to the editing team: Dr. Jocelyn W. Jackson, Rev. Meriann Taylor, Nell B. Gibson, the late Rev. Canon Frederick B. Williams, and Marpessa Law Dawn.

It is in the context of prayer that people of faith believe that everything begins and ends. In prayer, let us offer our love as an ever-flowing balm sufficient enough to heal HIV/AIDS in our life-time.

Eternally yours,

Pernessa C. Seele



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# Preface



## Liturgical Resources

The vision for this project came from Pernessa Seele, Founder/C.E.O., The Balm In Gilead, Inc. The prayer, study, prayer, writing, prayer, editing and prayer in preparation for these resources were the work of a group of committed persons who named themselves simply - The Prayer Group. The Prayer Group was composed of persons with HIV/AIDS, pastors, lay persons. Biblical scholars, poets, musicians, heterosexuals, lesbian and gay persons - all who find themselves called by God's Spirit, and the realities of life in our community, to be a part of the effort to foster greater compassion and understanding for people whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS.

We believe in the power of prayer and we offer these resources to the faith communities of America, inviting all to join in prayer for the healing of AIDS.

## The Prayer Group

Jay Hines

Jacqueline Holland

Joseph Long

Julia Mayo-Quinlan

Donna M. Prince

Janine Quinlan

William J. Vila

Judith Hoch Wray

May the glory be to God and all praise to Jesus, the Christ, who is alive among us and living with AIDS.



# About The Balm In Gilead



Celebrating over 23 years of service, The Balm In Gilead develops educational and training programs specifically designed to meet the unique needs of African American and African congregations that strive to become community centers for health education and disease prevention.

The Balm In Gilead is known throughout Africa and the United States for its insightful understanding of religious cultures and values and extraordinary ability to build strong, trusted partnerships with faith communities. With these unique partnerships, The Balm In Gilead has been entrusted to build the capacity of national faith structures to utilize their existing tentacles that reach into every urban center and rural village to deliver comprehensive health services.

The Balm In Gilead, Inc. is an international NGO based in Richmond, VA (USA) and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (Skyway Building).

## Our Vision

Faith institutions serving people of the African Diaspora are fully engaged in preventing diseases and improving the health status of those they serve and eliminating diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, cervical cancer, diabetes and other health disparities.

## Our Mission

The mission of The Balm In Gilead is to prevent diseases and to improve the health status of people of the African Diaspora by providing support to faith institutions in areas of program design, implementation and evaluation which strengthens their capacity to deliver programs and services that contribute to the elimination of health disparities.

## Our Guiding Principles

- We believe that all people facing health challenges are welcome at the table of grace by the unconditional love of God and that their voices must be heard and respected.
- We believe that faith leaders are a powerful voice for change and must be intentionally at the forefront of addressing the health challenges of the people they serve.
- We believe that faith institutions are uniquely positioned to play a major role in efforts to improve the health status of people living in the communities they serve.
- We believe in the Power of Prayer and its role in lives of all people of faith.



[www.balmingilead.org](http://www.balmingilead.org)





# About the *National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS*



The purpose of The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS is to bring national attention to the AIDS epidemic in the United States and the extraordinary role faith communities can and are playing in AIDS prevention, education, service and advocacy.

The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS promotes the continuous national mobilization and education of faith communities to take an even greater role in the implementation of AIDS education and services within their local communities and across the nation.



## History of The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS

The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS is the inclusive, expansion of the highly successful Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS which concluded its 20th year anniversary in 2009. The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS was the nation's FIRST national mobilization campaign that specifically focused on HIV/AIDS. The campaign has provided AIDS information to well-over 5 million African Americans through the engagement of Black congregations of every sector across the United States. The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS was the expansion of a community-wide initiative in New York City known as The Harlem Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS.

The successful engagement of Harlem's Christian, Muslim, Jewish, and traditional faith communities brought national attention to the critical and urgent need to engage faith communities in addressing HIV/AIDS, especially in the African American community. Pernessia Seele, Founder/CEO of the Balm In Gilead, is also the visionary and founder of the Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS.

The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS in 2011 calls America's faith communities' of all races, creeds and cultures to prayer and to educate their congregations and others about the ever-alarming AIDS epidemic in the United States.





# Preview of Resources



## The resources in this book are presented in three sections:

Section A consists of original pieces including prayers, confessions, litanies, a lament, a praise chorus and congregational hymns. The wide variety of resources can be used for worship services, prayer meetings, weekly study, Christian education workshops HIV/AIDS support groups, individual spiritual support, and the **National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS**. We trust that they will enrich your worship and stimulate courage and creativity to develop other worship resources which bring the needs of persons affected by HIV/AIDS into the center of our faith communities.



Section B consists of two complete worship services. These incorporate the resources from Section A into a coherent whole. The first service focuses on the theme, "Prerequisites for Prayer." The second service focuses on our theme, "Who Will Break the Silence?" Both are designed to be used either during the regular Sunday worship service or during a special service planned for the **National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS**.

Each service is presented first in outline form with specific instructions and suggestions for worship planners and leaders. Then the full service is printed for worship bulletin purposes. The texts and new music are included following the full service.

Section C consists of fact sheets about HIV and AIDS and information on other resources available to help churches plan for the **National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS**. We also encourage you to visit the campaign website at [www.NationalWeekofPrayerfortheHealingofAIDS.org](http://www.NationalWeekofPrayerfortheHealingofAIDS.org) or [www.NWPHA.org](http://www.NWPHA.org).



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# Prayers and other Liturgical Resources

**Text:** Genesis 9:8-17  
**Theme:** Everlasting Covenant (Rainbow]  
**Function:** Community response to the text



**One:** In the midst of the clouds. God sets a rainbow.

**All:** **We will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.**

**One:** In the midst of the storms of our lives, God sets a rainbow.

**All:** **We will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature.**

**One:** In the midst of the pandemic of HIV and AIDS, God sets a rainbow.

**All:** **We will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh.**

**One:** In the midst of our fears, our anger and our silences. God sets a rainbow.

**All:** **We will see it and remember the everlasting covenant.**

**One:** Whether we feel we have escaped the flood or been over-whelmed by the tide of pain and death.  
God sets a rainbow.

**All:** **We will see it and remember.**

**One:** We see the rainbow. We remember God's love for all.

**All:** **We remember God's covenant with all.**



## Prayers and other Liturgical Resources

**Text:** Psalm 25:4-5 (NIV)

**Title:** *Invocation*

One: Show us your ways, O Lord.

**All:** Show us **YOUR** ways, O Lord.

One: Teach us your paths.

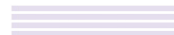
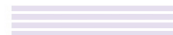
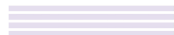
**All:** Teach us your path of covenant love.

One: Guide us in your truth and teach us.

**All:** Teach us, O God, your truth.

One: For you are God our Savior.

**All:** You alone are God. Save us.



**Text:** Genesis 9  
**Function:** Antiphonal Prayer  
**Title:** For Safe Space



Left: O God, God of the joyful and God of those who mourn,  
Right: God of the healthy and God of the sick,  
Left: God of the wealthy and God of the poor,  
Right: God of the gay and God of the straight,  
Left: God of the weary and God of the strong,  
Right: God of the sober and God of the addicted,  
Left: God of the fearful and God of the trusting,  
Right: God of the abused and God of the abuser,

**All: God of us all,**

Left: bring us each and all into the safe space of your presence  
Right: for we all need safe space in order to heal.  
Left: Bring us into safe space, free from our judgments of others and of ourselves.  
Right: Bring us into safe space, free to live without requiring lies of each other.  
Left: Teach us to advocate for and protect each other.  
Right: Teach us to hold each other up and calm each fear.  
Left: Heal the wounds of distrust and betrayal.  
Right: Heal the wounds of rejection and shame.  
Left: Grant that we may be a people who trust in you  
Right: and embrace each other in the name of Jesus the Christ.  
Left: Grant that in this space, in our lives, and in our community,  
Right: the healing may begin.  
Left: Grant that in this safe space the silence will be broken  
Right: so that the healing of HIV and AIDS may begin.

**All: We pray in the strong name of Jesus who lives among us and in us and through us all. Amen.**



**Text:** Hebrews 12:1-3  
**Theme:** The Ancestors  
**Title:** Sending Forth

One: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,  
**All: Since so many have gone before us, lived before us, died before us,**  
One: Let us also set aside every weight and sin that clings so closely.  
**All: We let go of pride, of shame, of denial. We will break the silence.**  
One: Let us run the race set before us.  
**All: The ancestors need us to finish the task. Our children need us to finish the task.**  
One: Look to Jesus and finish the race.  
**All: We look to Jesus and go forth with our ancestors and with our children until the joy comes for all.**  
**Amen.**



**Text:** Mark 1:40-45  
**Theme:** Commitment  
**Title:** Call to Commitment

One: Church, we are the Body of Christ.  
**All: We are the Body of Christ, living with AIDS.**  
One: If we choose, we can make a difference.  
**All: If we choose, we can contribute to the healing of AIDS,**  
One: In our homes, in our church, in our community,  
**All: In our bodies, in our minds, in our spirits.**  
One: Our sisters and brothers, our parents and children are infected with HIV.  
**All: Our community is living and dying with AIDS.**  
One: If we choose, the blocks to healing can be removed.  
**All: We choose compassion. We choose to respond.**  
One: Will you respond with your money, with your time, with your love?  
**All: We are the Body of Christ. We choose to respond; that AIDS may be healed.**  
**We pray and act for the healing of AIDS.**

# Prayers and other Liturgical Resources

**Psalm 147:1-5**

**Paraphrase of Psalm 147:1-5**

**Unison: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.**



**One:** The Lord builds up the neighborhood. God brings in the rejected, the forsaken, the homeless. God brings in the abandoned, the abused, the orphans.

**All:** **Who are we pretending not to see?**  
**Who are we pretending not to hear?**  
**Who are we pretending not to be?**  
**Who are we pretending not to know?**  
**Why?**

**One:** God heals the broken-hearted, the families, the friends and communities of those afflicted with HIV and AIDS,

**All:** **Who are we pretending not to see?**  
**Who are we pretending not to hear?**  
**Who are we pretending not to be?**  
**Who are we pretending not to know?**  
**Why?**

**One:** God binds the wounds of those without hope and counts each one of us as valuable, no matter how dim and flickering a life may seem.

**All:** **Who are we pretending not to see?**  
**Who are we pretending to hear?**  
**Who are we pretending not to be?**  
**Who are we pretending not to know?**  
**Why?**





One: God knows each one and calls each one by name. We remember those who have died of AIDS:

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**All:** Who are we pretending not to see?  
Who are we pretending not to hear?  
Who are we pretending not to be?  
Who are we pretending not to know?  
Why?

One: We remember and embrace those now living with HIV and AIDS:

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**All:** Who are we pretending not to see?  
Who are we pretending not to hear?  
Who are we pretending not to be?  
Who are we pretending not to know?  
Why?

**Unison:** Great is our God and abundant in power. God's understanding is beyond measure.

**All:** God, grant us the courage to see.  
God, grant us the courage to hear.  
God, grant us the courage to be.  
God, grant us the courage to know and to be known.  
Amen.



# Prayers and other Liturgical Resources

**Text:** Isaiah 40:21-31  
**Title:** Prayer of a Gay Christian

God, I'm tired of our ways being hidden, of our rights being disregarded.  
You may know me and love me but my church is hiding the truth.  
God, you know that I am gay, but my church doesn't want to admit it, and I'm tired of waiting.  
The youth are fainting; ignored, we feel powerless, and we are weary.  
Not only does our strength need to be renewed,  
God, we need some changes. We need some changes now.



**Theme:** Petition  
**Title:** Prayer for Unity

God of us all,  
We pray for the unity of the faith communities, that we may find a unified way to fight this disease of HIV/AIDS. Lead us out of passivity and old-fashioned attitudes. Replace ignorance with education. Teach the young self-worth and strength, the strength of self-discipline. Teach the old new ways of caring and compassion.

We pray for the commitment of time and money that will provide crisis intervention, professional guidance, community seminars and outreach programs to provide alternatives to the harmful enticements of the streets.

Grant us, together, a knowledge of what is and what is not, as well as a vision of what can be.  
In the name of Jesus the Christ, **Amen.**



# Prayers and other Liturgical Resources

## Psalm 147

### Healing

#### Prayer of Celebration for Healing

O God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar,  
O God of Jesus and Mary Magdalene,  
O God of Arthur Ashe and Magic Johnson,  
O God of Mother Hale and her children,

We praise you and rejoice that you are a God of healing and hope, of power and persistence.  
You call us to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep.

In this moment, in your presence, we come to celebrate healings and hope in the lives of  
persons living with HIV and AIDS.

We thank you for one more day of life.

We thank you for one encouraging test result.

We thank you for the embrace and comfort of lovers and friends.

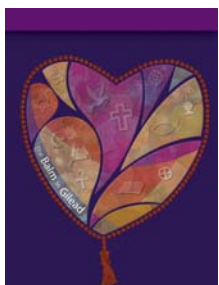
We thank you for the compassionate ministry of your church.

We thank you for the privilege of coming before your throne as family, not divided  
between those who are sick and those who are well, not divided between those who are  
addicted and those who are recovering, not divided between straight and gay.

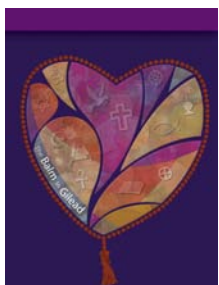
As your family, caring each for the other we rejoice in your healing presence among us, and pray  
that we might ever repent of all that blocks your healing in our own lives and in the lives of our  
sisters and brothers.

We pray in the strong name of Jesus who was and is vulnerable enough to live among us in the  
midst of AIDS.

**Amen.**



# Prayers and other Liturgical Resources



**Text:** Jeremiah 31:7-14

**Title:** Invocation and Call to Worship

Voice 1: O God, be present with us and hear our cries. We, your people, have been in exile so long.

**All:** Have mercy, O God.

Voice 1: We, your people with HIV and AIDS, have been in exile too long.

**All:** Have mercy, O God.

Voice 1: We mourn friends and lovers, sisters and brothers.

**All:** Have mercy, O God.

Voice 1: We have seen our people lame and blind, weeping and silenced.

**All:** Have mercy, O God.

Voice 1: Mothers are sick and babies are dying; families scattered and men alone.

**All:** Have mercy, O God.

Voice 2: O people, hear God's call. Come with weeping into my presence, for I am your God and I will have mercy.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

Voice 2: Come from far and near, for I am your God and I will have mercy.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

Voice 2: Come with singing into my presence, for I am your God and I will have mercy.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

Voice 2: Come to be refreshed and filled, for I am your God and I will have mercy.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

Voice 2: Come with dancing into my presence, for I am your God and I will have mercy.

**All:** Thanks be to God!



# Prayers and other Liturgical Resources

**Text:** Jeremiah 31:7-14

**Theme:** What will it take?

**Title:** A Lament for All the People of God in the Time of AIDS

**All:** What will it take, O God.

**Left:** for us to see the vision  
fulfilled in the land of the living?

**All:** What will it take, O God,

**Right:** for the change to come  
in our community, in our lives?

**All:** What will it take, O God,

**Left:** for the scattered to be gathered  
that all may praise and dance together?

**All:** What will it take, O God,

to free our sisters and brothers from HIV and AIDS?

**All:** What will it take, O God,

**Right:** for us, your church  
to be free from ignorance and fear?

**All:** What will it take, O God,

**Left:** for us to recognize your Word become flesh  
living among us with AIDS?

**All:** What will it take, O God,

for the dance to begin  
and the deaths to end?



## *Prayers and other Liturgical Resources*

**Text:** Mark 1:29-39  
**Function:** Unison Confession  
**Title:** Confession



O God, we confess our sin in the midst of HIV and AIDS.

We confess our fear, our selective compassion,  
and our conditional love.

We have denied and avoided sisters and brothers,  
families and friends.

We have become disconnected from our neighbors.  
We have become disconnected from our own sexuality.  
And therefore,

we have become disconnected from you, O God.

We have silenced those who live with AIDS and HIV.

And when their ailments become visible,  
we have removed them from our midst to hospitals,  
to hospices and to the streets.

Forgive us, O God.

Bring us back to the center of your presence  
where you hold all who call upon your name.

Help us to break the silence.

Help us to reach out to restore the connections  
with all whom you love.

We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.



# Prayers and other Liturgical Resources

**Text:** Genesis 9:8-17  
**Theme:** Hearing the Promise  
**Title:** Sending Forth

**All:** We hear again the promise of our God for all.

**One:** Then go forth, confident in the trustworthiness of the One who placed the rainbow in the heavens, that we may see and remember.

**All:** We hear again the promise of our God for all.

**One:** Go forth, strengthened by hope from the One who sent Jesus the Christ, knowing that our hope will not disappoint us.

**All:** We hear again the promise of our God for all.

**One:** Go forth by faith. The One who placed the rainbow and sent the Christ has sent the Spirit, so we know that God is with us always.





# Prayers and other Liturgical Resources

**Text:** Mark 1:29-39; Psalm 62  
(Zechariah 4:6; Isaiah 62)  
**Theme:** Silence  
**Title:** Prayer about Silence: A Dialogue with God



Left: O God,  
Who will break the silence?  
Who will break the silence of isolation?  
Who will break the silence of fear?  
Who will break the silence of ignorance?  
Who will break the silence of denial?  
When will the silence end?

Right: O People,  
I break the silence, not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit and by my Word.  
Let those who have an ear to hear, hear my voice:  
End the isolation by embracing each other.  
End the fear by trusting the power of my love.  
End the ignorance by learning the truth.  
End the denial by a willingness to be vulnerable.

Left: O God,  
We pray for the silence, the silence in which we can hear your voice.  
We pray for the silence, the silence in which we can hear each other -  
the silence of respect, the silence of hope, the silence of forgiveness, the silence of mercy.  
We pray for the silence from which we can act together for the healing of AIDS and HIV.

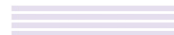
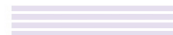
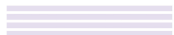
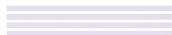


## *Prayers and other Liturgical Resources*

Right: O People,  
for my sake, do not be silent.  
For the sake of all my people, do not keep quiet.  
Cry out, cry out throughout the land until justice emerges,  
compassion triumphs,  
and healing flows like a mighty stream.



All: O God,  
for you alone, our souls wait in silence.  
For our sisters and brothers,  
for our friends and family,  
we break the silence now.



## *Prayers and other Liturgical Resources*

**Text:** Mark 1:35  
**Theme:** Solitary place of prayer  
**Title:** Prayer of Meditation

God, they have provided this time of silence for me to "be still," for me to touch the reality of being in a solitary place with you - in the midst of this worshipping community. I am mindful that a solitary place is a place where one can be reassured, reaffirmed and redirected in the work of ministry. You often withdrew for this purpose.

So I praise and I pray. Reassure me, Lord of Life, so that in the midst of death my steps will be re-directed and my courage abound as I seek to minister in your name to persons who have HIV and AIDS. Reaffirm for me that you are the Light of the World, which cannot be extinguished, so that I will not fret or worry whether or not I am enough for the tasks ahead.

God, may I emerge from this solitary space, finding my place in a healing ministry to persons with HIV and AIDS.



# Prayers and other Liturgical Resources

**Text:** Mark 1:29-39  
**Theme:** Interruptions  
**Title:** Prayer for Interruptions

**All:** Our lives have been interrupted, O God.

One: The loom stops  
because the weaver has been stricken with AIDS.  
Production ceases  
because a technician has been stricken with AIDS.  
There are no classes today  
because the teacher has been stricken with AIDS.  
The music has gone silent  
because the organist has been stricken with AIDS.

**All:** No more business as usual.

One: How many more people have to be stricken before we get it that HIV/AIDS is not going  
to go away just because we ignore them?  
How many more must die?  
How many more orphans and widows?

**All:** Interruptions are not pretty, O God.  
We are uncomfortable.

One: Interrupt our silences with your Spirit  
until our denial ends  
so that we can become part of the solution  
instead of part of the problem.

**All:** Heal us all, O God.  
In the name of Jesus. Amen.



# Prayers and other Liturgical Resources

**Theme:** What part do I play?

**Title:** A Personal Prayer in the Midst of a Church Living with AIDS

There are brothers and sisters in my community that are in desperate need of healing—healing from the ravages of HIV and AIDS. We don't even know who they are. Some of them are us. Walls of silence keep us apart. Many are fearful to speak the name of HIV and AIDS.

God, bring us all to a truly safe place filled with compassion and understanding. Bring us all to this place of safety; that the church may embody your spirit of protection and healing.

What part do I play?

Show me the way to make a difference.

Guide my hands to hold the first hand.

Open my heart to receive the first hug.

Remind me that you have chosen me. I can help.

God, awaken the spirit within me.

The Spirit that is mine is yours.

Your Spirit refreshes the soul with serenity.

Your Spirit embodies the heart with courage.

Your Spirit charts our right course with wisdom.

Help me break down the walls of separation within our community. Help me build bridges of love and understanding. Help me sweep away the debris of the isms, phobias, broken connections, and shattered hopes.

Prepare my heart to prepare your way. Encourage me to think the first thought, to make the first sound, to speak the first word. Help me break the silence.



# Prayers and other Liturgical Resources

**Theme:** Creation, Passion & Vulnerability

**Title:** Prayer from the Minister of Music

God, who brought us HMMM, OOH, and AAH, the language of music which needs no interpretation, I come to you, a servant of the chord.

I pray in the midst of AIDS that I do not lose sight of the connection between your creation, my passion, and vulnerability.

Vulnerability means risk.

Risk to be unique.

Risk to be creative.

Risk to share myself with others.

I pray for myself and for all the courage and wisdom to live in vulnerability rather than fear. And in doing so, protection comes not only from condoms and bleach, the cure will come, not only from a drug, but from within and from you, O God.

I thank you. God, for the HMMs, **OOHs, and AAHs that allow my soul to** know and to sing:

"It is well, it is well with my soul."

**Amen**



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## Section B

## *Worship Services*





# Worship Service: “Prerequisites for Prayer”

## Outline and instructions

**Texts:** Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-7, 19-22;  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; (Mark 1:9-15)

### Before worship:

Pass out rainbow ribbons or stickers to each worshipper. Hang large rainbow banner in/near front of sanctuary, or prepare it to be carried in during processional. Prepare signs or banners to be used during prayer time, saying, "Is it true? Can it be? Jesus is alive and living with AIDS."

**Invocation:** (Psalm 25:4-5)

### Scripture Reading:

**Genesis 9:8-17**

Introduction to the reading: "Lent, our time of preparation for the joy of Easter, begins with covenant, God's covenant with every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

(Gen 9:8-17). Before we pray, before we worship, before we are called to respond, God acts. God acts to establish a covenant inclusive of all."

### Community Response:

"The Everlasting Covenant"

### Processional Hymn:

"Bring Many Names"	#9 <i>Bring Many Names</i> by Brian Wren, Hope Publishing Company, 1988
or "Many Gifts, One Spirit"	#114 <i>United Methodist Hymnal</i>
or "Praise Him, Praise Him"	#12 <i>The New National Baptist Hymnal</i>

**Antiphonal Prayer:** "For Safe Space"

### Assurance of Safe Space

### Choir Selection:

"How Good It Is"  
or "Stand By Me" - #41 *Songs of Zion*  
or, #500 *The New National Baptist Hymnal*



# Worship Service: *“Prerequisites for Prayer”*

## A Lament For All The People Of GOD In The Time Of AIDS

### Testimonies of Healing and Change:

Invite two or three person with HIV/AIDS to come and give very short vignettes about moments of healings and changes in their Jives That they have experienced since being diagnosed. Just a sentence or two will be good. Also invite two or three persons to testify about ways they have been ministered to by persons with HIV or AIDS.

### Scripture Reading: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 *[Printed on page 78]*

### Community Response: Praise Chorus "I Am"

### Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-15

### Sermon: "Prerequisites for Prayer"

### Prayers of The People:

In addition to the prayers solicited and invited from the congregants, individuals may read the three suggested prayers: "Prayer from the Minister of Music"; "Prayer of a Black Gay Christian"; and "Personal Prayer in the midst of a church living with AIDS."

"Visuals" - As a part of the prayer time, persons, including youth, carry signs in front of congregation saying:

**IS IT TRUE? CAN IT BE? JESUS IS ALIVE AND LIVING WITH AIDS!**

**Silence:** Please allow at least 3 or 4 minutes.

**Pastoral Prayer:** Invitation /Altar call

**Offertory:** "Call to Commitment"

### Recessional Hymn:

"The Church's One Foundation" #41 *Ever flowing Streams*

or "How Firm a Foundation" #21 *The New National Baptist Hymnal*

or "El Shaddai" #123 *United Methodist Hymnal*

or "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less" #368 *United Methodist Hymnal*

### Sending Forth



# Worship Service: *“Prerequisites for Prayer”*

## Outline and instructions

Invocation: (Psalm 25A-5)

One: Show us your ways, O Lord.

**All: Show us YOUR ways, O Lord.**

One: Teach us your paths

**All: Teach us your path of covenant love.**

One: Guide us in your truth and teach us.

**All: Teach us, O God, YOUR truth.**

One: For you are God our Savior.

**All: You alone are God. Save us.**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

## Community Response

One: In the midst of the clouds, God sets a rainbow.

**All: We will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.**

One: In the midst of the storms of our lives, God sets a rainbow.

**All: We will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature.**

One: In the midst of the pandemic of HIV and AIDS, God sets a rainbow.

**All: We will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh.**

One: In the midst of our fears, our anger and our silences. God sets a rainbow.

**All: We will see it and remember the everlasting covenant.**

One: Whether we feel we have escaped the flood or been over whelmed by the tide of pain and death, God sets a rainbow.

**All: We will see it and remember.**

One: We see the rainbow. We remember God's love for all.

**All: We remember God's covenant with all.**

Thanks be to God!



# Worship Service: *"Prerequisites for Prayer"*

**Processional Hymn:** "Bring Many Names"

**Antiphonal Prayer:** "Safe Space"



Left: O God, God of the joyful and God of those who mourn,

Right: God of the healthy and God of the sick,

Left: God of the wealthy and God of the poor,

Right: God of the gay and God of the straight,

Left: God of the weary and God of the strong,

Right: God of the sober and God of the addicted,

Left: God of the fearful and God of the trusting,

Right: God of the abused and God of the abuser,

**All: God of us all,**

Left: Bring us each and all into the safe space of your presence

Right: for we all need safe space in order to heal.

Left: Bring us into safe space, free from our judgments of others and of ourselves.

Right: Bring us into safe space, free to live without requiring lies of each other.

Left: Teach us to advocate for and protect each other.

Right: Teach us to hold each other up and calm each fear.

Left: Heal the wounds of distrust and betrayal.

Right: Heal the wounds of rejection and shame.

Left: Grant that we may be a people who trust in you

Right: and embrace each other in the name of Jesus the Christ.

Left: Grant that in this space, in our lives, and in our community,

Right: the healing may begin.

Left: Grant that in this safe space the silence will be broken

Right: so that the healing of HIV and AIDS may begin.

**All: We pray in the strong name of Jesus who lives among us and in us and through us all. Amen.**



# Worship Service: *“Prerequisites for Prayer”*

## Assurance of Safe Space



In the name of God who has created us, redeemed us and sustains us moment by moment, I declare this to be safe space and invite all to come, just as you are, knowing that you will be honored and respected in this hour. Here, your experiences will be validated; your hopes and fears will be heard. The promise of God's rainbow is over us all this day. Together we will worship as sisters and brothers, as friends and lovers of Jesus the Christ. Amen.



# Worship Service: *"Prerequisites for Prayer"*

**Choir Selection:** "How Good It Is"

words: Judith Hoch Wray music & arrangement: William J. Vila

## **A Lament for All The People of GOD In The Time of AIDS**

**All: What will it take, O God.**

Left: for us to see the vision fulfilled in the land of the living?

**All: What will it take, O God,**

Right: for the change to come in our community, in our lives?

**All: What will it take, O God,**

Left: for the scattered to be gathered that all may praise and dance together?

**All: What will it take, O God, to free our sisters and brothers from HIV and AIDS?**

**All: What will it take, O God,**

Right: for us, your church to be free from ignorance and fear?

**All: What will it take, O God,**

Left: for us to recognize your Word become flesh living among us with AIDS?

**All: What will it take, O God, for the dance to begin and the deaths to end?**



## **Testimonies of Healing and Change:**

**Scripture Reading: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18**

**Community Response: Praise Chorus: "I Am"**

words based on Psalm 139:14 - words & music: Judith Hoch Wray arrangement: William J. Vila

O, God, I praise you

O, God, I praise-you.

O, God, I praise you,

for I am,

oh, I am,

yes, I am fearfully and wonderfully made.





**Gospel Reading:** Mark 1:9-15  
**Sermon:** "Prerequisites for Prayer"  
**Prayers of the People:** Silence, Pastoral Prayer  
**Offertory:** "Call to Commitment"

One: Church, we are the Body of Christ

**AH: The Body of Christ, living with AIDS**

One: If we choose, we can make a difference.

**All: If we choose, we can contribute to the healing of AIDS.**

One: In our homes, in our church, in our community.

**All: In our bodies, in our minds, in our spirits.**

One: Our sisters and brothers, our parents and children are infected with HIV.

**All: Our community is living and dying with AIDS.**

One: If we choose, the blocks to healing can be removed.

**All: We choose compassion. We choose to respond.**

One: Will you respond with your money, with your time, with your love?

**All: We are the Body of Christ. We choose to respond that AIDS may be healed.**

**We pray and act for the healing of AIDS.**

**Recessional Hymn:** "The Church's One Foundation" #41 Ever flowing Streams  
**Sending Forth**

**All: We hear again the promise of our God for all.**

One: Then go forth, confident in the trustworthiness of the One who placed the rainbow in the heavens, that we may see and remember.

**All: We hear again the promise of our God for all.**

One: Go forth, strengthened by hope from the One who sent Jesus the Christ, knowing that our hope will not disappoint us.

**All: We hear again the promise of our God for all.**

One: Go forth by faith. The One who placed the rainbow and sent the Christ has sent the Spirit, so we know that God is with us always.

**All: Amen.**





# Prayers Of The People

## "Prayer from the Minister of Music"

God, who brought us HMMM, OOH, and AAH, the language of music which needs no interpretation,  
I come to you, a servant of the chord.

I pray in the midst of AIDS that I do not lose sight of the connection between your creation, my  
passion, and vulnerability.

Vulnerability means risk.

Risk to be unique.

Risk to be creative.

Risk to share myself with **others**.

I pray for myself and for all the courage and wisdom to live in vulnerability rather than fear. And in doing so,  
protection comes not only from condoms and bleach, the cure will come, not only from a drug, but from  
within and from you, O God.

I thank you. God, for the HMM's, OOH's, and AAH' s that allow my soul to know and to sing

"It is well, it is well with my soul."

**Amen.**

## "Prayer of a Black Christian"

God, I'm tired of our ways being hidden, of our rights being disregarded.

You may know me and love me but the church is hiding the truth.

God, you know I'm gay, but the church doesn't want to admit it, and I'm tired of waiting.

The youth are fainting; ignored, we feel powerless, and we are weary

Not only does our strength need to be renewed, God, we need some changes

We need some changes now.



# Prayers Of The People

## "Personal Prayer in the Midst of a Church Living with AIDS"

There are brothers and sisters in my community that are in desperate need of healing-healing **from** the ravages of HIV and AIDS. We don't even know who they are. Some of them are us. Walls **of** silence keep us apart. Many are fearful to speak the name of HIV and AIDS.

O God, bring us all to a truly safe place filled with compassion and understanding. Bring us all **to** this place of safety that the church may embody your spirit of protection and healing.

What part do I play?  
Show me the way to make a difference.  
Guide my hands to hold the first hand.  
Open my heart to receive the first hug.  
Remind me that you have chosen me. I can help.

God, awaken the spirit within me.  
The Spirit that is mine is yours.  
Your Spirit refreshes the soul with serenity.  
Your Spirit embodies the heart with courage.  
Your Spirit charts our right course with wisdom.

Help me break down the walls of separation within our community. Help me build bridges of love and understanding. Help me sweep away the debris of the isms, phobias, broken connections, and shattered hopes.

Prepare my heart to prepare your way. Encourage me to think the first thought, to make the first sound, to speak the first word. Help me break the silence.



# Text



## Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

## Psalms 25:1-7, 19-22

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul, O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord! Consider how many are my foes, and with what violent hatred they hate me.

O guard my life, and deliver me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.

Redeem Israel, O God, out of all its troubles.





## Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

O Lord you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them-they are more than the sand; I come to the end - I am still with you.

## Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved: with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news."



# Worship Service: *"Who Will Break the Silence"*

## Outline and Instructions

**Texts:** Psalm 147; Isaiah 40:21-31; Mark 1:29-39; (Jeremiah 31:7-14)

**Invocation and Call to Worship** (Jeremiah 31:7-14)

**Processional Hymn:** "O Lord, Our God, How Excellent is Thy Name"

Praise Songs by Hosanna Music

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

**First Reading:** Psalm 147:1-6

[From An Inclusive Language Lectionary: Readings for Year B

**Response Of The People** "Paraphrase of Psalm 147:1-5"

**Choral Response** "How Good It Is"

Note: both of these responses provide an opportunity for the congregation to speak the names of those living with and having died from HIV/AIDS. When both responses are used, you may choose to omit the naming process, verse 3, from the Choral Response.



**Lesson From The Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31**

**Response:** "Prayer from a Black Gay Christian"

Invite a Gay Christian from your own congregation or the broader community to read this prayer.

**Gospel Lesson (part 1): Mark 1:29-31**

**Testimonies:**

Invite two or three person with AIDS or HIV to give very short vignettes about moments of healings that they have experienced. Just a sentence or two. For example: the healing that came when I told my family and they put their arms around me and took me in. Or the kind of healing wherein: "somebody called and said that there was a prayer group praying for me and somehow I felt more strengthened than I had ever felt before and I was actually able to be released from the hospital the next day. No, the AIDS isn't gone, but there are moments of healing that we've experienced in a lot of different ways..." These are intended to convey positive examples of the ways healings can and do happen.



**Prayer Response:** "A Prayer to Celebrate Healing"

**Musical Response:** "Lead Me, Lord"

#532 The New National Baptist Hymnal

#473 United Methodist Hymnal

**Gospel Lesson (part 2): Mark 1:29-39** (Printed on page 88)

**Role Plays:**

Invite pairs of people of different ages and genders each to do a short [one minute) role play to demonstrate ways people deny or distance themselves from HIV / AIDS. Into each discussion walk someone representing Jesus who carries a large sign which says, "AIDS!" or "Jesus is alive and living with AIDS." Each pair goes away silent when confronted by Jesus. [For examples, see page 68.;

**Response:** "Prayer for Interruptions"

**Sermon:** "Out of the Silence, We break the Silence"

**Response:** "Prayer about Silence: A Dialogue with God"

(The time of silence during this prayer should be at least 3 or 4 minutes.)

**Invitation to Intentional Ministries**

Invite people out of their own silences into intentional participation in ministries with HIV and AIDS. Those who are willing to stand and/or come forward can be commissioned and/or anointed to the work before them.

**Time for Silent Meditation: "Prayer of Meditation"**

This prayer is offered for reflection in the silence.

**Commissioning**

**Offertory: "Prayer for Unity"**

**Hymn: "We'll Not Keep Silent"**

[Music included at end of worship service) or " Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

#584 United Methodist Hymnal

**Sending Forth**



# Worship Service: "Who Will Break the Silence"

## "Who Will Break the Silence"

### Invocation and Call to Worship: (Jeremiah 31:7-14)



Voice 1: O God, be present with us and hear our cries. We, your people, have been in exile so long.

**All: Have mercy, O God.**

Voice 1: We, your people with HIV and AIDS, have been in exile too long.

**All: Have mercy, O God.**

Voice 1: We mourn friends and lovers, sisters and brothers.

**All: Have mercy, O God.**

Voice 1: We have seen our people lame and blind, weeping and silenced.

**All: Have mercy, O God.**

Voice 1: Mothers are sick and babies are dying; families scattered and men alone.

**All: Have mercy, O God.**

Voice 2: O people, hear God's call.

Come with weeping into my presence, for I am your God and I will have mercy.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Voice 2: Come from far and near, for I am your God and I will have mercy.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Voice 2: Come with singing into my presence, for I am your God and I will have mercy.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Come to be refreshed and filled, for I am your God and I will have mercy.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Voice 2: Come with dancing into my presence, for I am your God and I will have mercy.

**All: Thanks be to God!**



# Worship Service: *"Who Will Break the Silence"*

**Processional Hymn** "O Lord, Our God, How Majestic Is Thy Name in All the Earth"

## **Unison Prayer of Confession**

O God, we confess our sin in the midst of HIV and AIDS.

We confess our fear, our selective compassion, and our conditional love.

We have denied and avoided sisters and brothers, families and friends.

We have become disconnected from our neighbors.

We have become disconnected from our own sexuality.

And therefore, we have become disconnected from you, O God.

We have silenced those who live with AIDS and HIV.

And when their ailments become visible, we have removed them from our midst to hospitals, to hospices and to the streets.

Forgive us, O God.

Bring us back to the center of your presence where you hold all who call upon your name.

Help us to break the silence.

Help us to reach out to restore the connections with all whom you love.

We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.



## **The First Reading: Psalm 147:1-6**

### **Response of The People: "Paraphrase of Psalm 147:1-5"**

Unison: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting,

One: The Lord builds up the neighborhood. God brings in the rejected, the forsaken, the homeless. God brings in the abandoned, the abused, the orphans.

All: Who are we pretending not to see?  
(Refrain) Who are we pretending not to hear?  
Who are we pretending not to be?  
Who are we pretending not to know?  
Why?







One: God heals the broken-hearted, the families, the friends and communities of those afflicted with H IV and AIDS.

**All: (Refrain)**

One: God binds the wounds of those without hope and counts each one of us as valuable, no matter how dim and flickering a life may seem.

**All: Who are we pretending not to see?**

**(Refrain) Who are we pretending not to hear?**

**Who are we pretending not to be?**

**Who are we pretending not to know?**

**Why?**

One: God knows each one and calls each one by name. We remember those who have died of AIDS:

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**All: (Refrain)**

One: We remember and embrace those now living with HIV and AIDS:

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**All: (Refrain)**

Unison: Great is our God and abundant in power. God's understanding is beyond measure.

**All: God, grant us the courage to see.**

**God, grant us the courage to hear.**

**God, grant us the courage to be.**

**God, grant us the courage to know and to be known.**

**Amen.**

**Choral Response: "How Good It Is"**

lyrics & music: Judith Hoch Wray arrangement: William J. Vila



# Worship Service: *"Who Will Break the Silence"*

**Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 40:21-31**

**Response: "Prayer from a Gay Christian"**

God, I'm tired of our ways being hidden,  
of our rights being disregarded.  
You may know me and love me  
but the church is hiding the truth.  
God, you know, but the church doesn't want to admit it.

You know that I'm gay,  
but the church doesn't want to admit it,  
and I'm tired of waiting.  
The youth are fainting;  
ignored, we feel powerless, and we are weary.  
Not only does our strength need to be renewed,  
God, we need some changes.  
We need some changes now.

**Gospel Lesson (part I): Mark 1:29-31**



# Worship Service: *"Who Will Break the Silence"*

## Testimonies

**Unison Response:** "A Prayer to Celebrate Healing"



O God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar,  
O God of Jesus and Mary Magdalene,  
O God of Arthur Ashe and Magic Johnson,  
O God of Mother Hale and her children,  
O God, we praise you and rejoice that you are a God of healing and hope, of power and persistence.

You call us to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep.  
In this moment, in your presence, we come to celebrate healings and hope in the lives of persons living with HIV and AIDS.

We thank you for one more day of life.

We thank you for one encouraging test result.

We thank you for the embrace and comfort of lovers and friends.

We thank you for the compassionate ministry of your church.

We thank you for the privilege of coming before your throne as family, not divided between those who are sick and those who are well, not divided between those who are addicted and those who are recovering, not divided between straight and gay.

As your family, caring each for the other we rejoice in your healing presence among us.  
and pray that we might ever repent of all that blocks your healing in our own lives and in the lives of our sisters and brothers.

We pray in the strong name of Jesus who was and is vulnerable enough to live among us in the midst of AIDS.

Amen.



# Worship Service: *"Who Will Break the Silence"*

Music Response: "Lead Me, Lord"

Gospel Lesson (part 2): Mark 1:32-39

Role Plays

Response: "Prayer-Interruption"



**All: Our lives have been interrupted, O God.**

One: The loom stops because the weaver has been stricken with AIDS.

Production ceases because a technician has been stricken with AIDS.

There are no classes today because the teacher has been stricken with AIDS.

The music has gone silent because the organist has been stricken with AIDS.

**All: No more business as usual.**

One: How many more people have to be stricken before we realize that HIV and AIDS are not going to go away just because we ignore them?

How many more must die?

How many more orphans and widows?

**All: Interruptions are not pretty, O God. We are uncomfortable.**

One: Interrupt our silences with your Spirit until our denial ends so that we can become part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

**All: Heal us all, O God.**

In the name of Jesus.

Amen.



# Worship Service: *"Who Will Break the Silence"*

**Sermon:** "Out of the Silence, We break the Silence"

**Response:** "Prayer about Silence: A Dialogue with God"

Left: O God,

Who will break the silence?

Who will break the silence of isolation?

Who will break the silence of fear?

Who will break the silence of ignorance?

Who will break the silence of denial?

When will the silence end?

Right: O People,

I break the silence, not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit and by my Word.

Let those who have an ear to hear, hear my voice:

End the isolation by embracing each other.

End the fear by trusting the power of my love.

End the ignorance by learning the truth.

End the denial by a willingness to be vulnerable.

Left: O God,

We pray for the silence, the silence in which we can hear your voice.

We pray for the silence, the silence in which we can hear each other -

the silence of respect, the silence of hope, the silence of forgiveness, the silence of mercy.

We pray for the silence from which we can act together for the healing of AIDS and HIV.



## Worship Service: *"Who Will Break the Silence"*

Right: O People,  
for my sake, do not be silent.  
For the sake of all my people, do not keep quiet.  
Cry out, cry out throughout the land until justice emerges,  
compassion triumphs,  
and healing flows like a mighty stream.



All: O God,  
for you alone, our souls wait in silence.  
For our sisters and brothers,  
for our friends and lovers,  
we break the silence now.

All: (silence)

All: O God,  
for you alone, our souls wait in silence.  
For our sisters and brothers,  
for our friends and lovers,  
we break the silence now.

Invitation to Intentional Ministries



# Time of Silent Meditation

## "Prayer of Meditation"

God they have provided this time of silence for me to "be still," for me to touch the reality of being in a solitary place with you-in the midst of this worshipping community. I am mindful that a solitary place is a place where one can be reassured, reaffirmed and redirected in the work of ministry. You often withdrew for this purpose. So I praise - and I pray. Reassure me, Lord of Life, so that in the midst of death my steps will be re-directed and my courage abound as I seek to minister in your name to persons who have HIV and AIDS. Reaffirm for me that you are the Light of the World, which cannot be extinguished, so that I will not fret or worry whether or not I am enough for the tasks ahead. God, may I emerge from this solitary space, finding my place in a healing ministry to persons with HIV and AIDS.



## Commissioning Offertory

### "Prayer for Unity"

God of us all,

We pray for the unity of the Black Church, that we may find a unified way to fight this disease of HIV/AIDS. Lead the Church out of passivity and old-fashioned attitudes. Replace ignorance with education. Teach the young self-worth and strength, the strength of self-discipline. Teach the old new ways of caring and compassion.

We pray for the commitment of time and money that will provide crisis intervention, professional guidance, community seminars and outreach programs to provide alternatives to the harmful enticements of the streets.

Grant us, together, a knowledge of what is and what is not, as well as a vision of what can be.  
In the name of Jesus the Christ, Amen.

Hymn: "We'll Not Keep Silent"

### Sending Forth

One: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

**All: Since so many have gone before us, lived before us, died before us,**

One: Let us also set aside every weight and sin that clings so closely.

**All: We let go of pride, of shame, of denial. We will break the silence.**

One: Let us run the race set before us.

**All: The ancestors need us to finish the task. Our children need us to finish the task.**

One: Look to Jesus and finish the race.

**All: We look to Jesus and go forth with our ancestors and with our children until the joy comes for all. Amen.**





# We'll Not Keep Silent



2. Speak out your name; do not keep si-lent;  
Shout out your love; do not keep qui-et,

'Til justice emerges resplendent  
And healing like a flaming torch.  
Shout, shout, shout for joy; Sing, sing, sing for peace;  
Work, work, work for justice, comfort and release.

3. Ex-pose the - lies; do not keep si-lent;  
Speak a-loud the - truth; do not keep qui-et,  
[refrain]

4. All - day and - night, do not keep si-lent;  
Re-mind our - God; do not keep qui-et,  
(refrain)

5. For — an—ger's — sake, we'll not keep si—lent;  
Main—tain - ing - hope, we'll not keep qui—et,  
[refrain]

6. For - God's own — sake we'll not keep si-lent;  
For - God's own - sake we'll not keep qui-et,  
[refrain]



# Role Plays Demonstrating “Denial”

## Demonstrating "Denial"

**1** Well, I think all this uproar about AIDS is exaggerated. I don't know anyone who has died from it.

Haven't you read the statistics? AIDS is the number one killer of African American women between the ages of 15 and 44.

It sounds like another racist plot to make us look bad. It isn't affecting me.

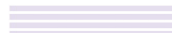
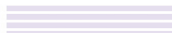
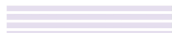
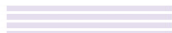
## Interruption: "Jesus is Alive and Living with AIDS"

**2** I know that many of my friends are using condoms, but I can't be bothered. Maybe you should consider abstinence. You might live longer. I intend to live better. AIDS doesn't scare me.

## Interruption: "Jesus is Alive and Living with AIDS"

**3** All we have to do is get the drug dealers off the streets and everything will be okay. That's right. That would end most of our problems. Remove the temptations and our young people will make good choices.

## Interruption: "Jesus is Alive and Living with AIDS"



## Psalm 147:1-6

Praise the Lord!

How good it is to sing praises to our God; for God is gracious, and a song of praise is seemly.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem; and gathers the outcasts of Israel, heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds, determines the number of the stars; and gives to all of them their names.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, with understanding beyond measure.

The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; and casts the wicked to the ground.



## Isaiah 40:21-31

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?*

*Has it not been told you from the beginning?*

*Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?*

*It is God who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;*

*who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;*

*who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.*

*Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,*

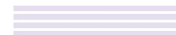
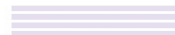
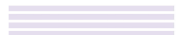
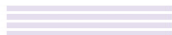
*when God blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.*

*To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.*

*Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?*

*The One who brings out their host **and numbers them**, calling them all by name;*

*because God is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.*



# Text

*Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from **the Lord**, and my right is disregarded by my God"?*

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?*

*The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth, who does not faint or grow weary, whose understanding is unsearchable.*

*God gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.*

*Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*

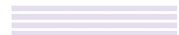
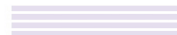
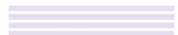
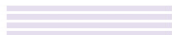


## **Mark 1:29-31**

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

## **Mark 1:32-39**

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.



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## *Section C*

### *Other Resources*



# Other Resources

## What Is HIV/AIDS?

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the virus which causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). HIV usually enters the body as a result of unprotected sexual intercourse or other blood to blood contact with someone who already has the virus. HIV attacks and weakens the immune system by destroying helper T-cells, an essential part of the the immune system. HIV is fragile and cannot survive long outside the body.



- Over time, HIV disease damages the body's immune system, allowing people to get life threatening infections.
- When the body's immune system is severely damaged by HIV, an AIDS diagnosis is likely to be made.
- A diagnosis of AIDS means that a person with HIV has an extremely low level of helper T Cells, or has certain illnesses.
- Only a health care provider can make a diagnosis of AIDS.

## How Is HIV Transmitted?

- HIV can be transmitted by the exchange of infected blood, semen or vaginal fluids from one person to another.
- Sexual transmission of HIV occurs most frequently during anal or vaginal intercourse without the use of a latex condom.
- HIV can be transmitted by sharing contaminated needles.
- HIV can be transmitted during oral sex.
- Infected women can transmit the virus to their babies during pregnancy or birth and in some cases, through breast milk.
- There is no evidence that HIV is transmitted through casual contact, such as sharing a glass, toilet seat, or toothbrush with an infected person. It is not possible to become infected by hugging or holding an HIV positive person, by breathing in the space where an HIV positive person has been, or by eating food prepared by an HIV positive person. An individual taking care of someone with HIV or AIDS is at no risk of infection if precautionary measures are taken.



## Other Resources

### HIV/AIDS IS A PREVENTABLE DISEASE

The following are recommended to prevent transmission of the virus:

- The only sure way to prevent sexual transmission of HIV is through abstinence.
- **Think and talk** about HIV prevention before having sex.

When engaging in anal, vaginal or oral sex use a latex condom each time (do not re-use condoms).

- During sexual activity avoid getting someone else's blood, semen or vaginal secretions into your body.
- Avoid "shooting" or taking any illegal drugs. Seek immediate assistance of a personal physician, a hospital, or detoxification center for help in overcoming any drug addiction.
- Alcohol and other drugs impair judgment may lead to unsafe practices. To learn more about condom use and other protective measures contact the AIDS hotline.
- If injecting drugs, do not share the needles (or cotton, syringe and cooker). Use new needles or needles cleaned with full strength bleach and rinsed with water each time.
- Women considering pregnancy should seek counseling to determine their risk.

### HIV/AIDS Can Be A Manageable Disease

Although presently there is no cure for HIV/AIDS/ we know that people can live for many years with HIV. As treatments develop it becomes increasingly possible to treat HIV infection as a chronic but controlled condition. It is important to seek early treatment and counseling to help improve and prolong the quality of life. Currently there is a wide range of treatments available.



## Other Resources



### What Is The HIV Antibody Test?

The HIV Antibody test is not a test for AIDS, but rather for the antibody which forms in response to the presence of HIV in the blood. The antibody can be detected in most people within six weeks to six months from the time of infection.

### What Does A Negative Test Mean?

- A negative antibody test means that at the time of the test there was no presence of HIV antibodies found in your system.
- It is important to continue safer sex and needle practices.
- It does not mean that you are immune to future infection with HIV.

### What Does A Positive Test Mean?

- A positive HIV antibody blood test means that you are infected with HIV. Your body is producing the antibodies (the immune system's response to infection) to HIV.
- You do not necessarily have AIDS.
- A positive HIV antibody blood test results means you can infect other people with the virus.

If **you** would like to know more about HIV/AIDS or would like more information and/or counseling contact:

**National AIDS Hotline:**

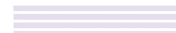
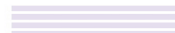
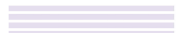
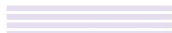
**1-800-342-AIDS (English)**

**1-800-344-S1DA (Spanish)**

**1-800-AIDS-TTY (for the Hearing Impaired)**

**National AIDS Information Clearinghouse: 1-800-458-5231**

•*Courtesy of Harvard AIDS Ministries and The Massachusetts Department of Public Health*





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