

# The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS

## Liturgical Resources

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**Text: Hebrews 12:1-3**

**Title: The Ancestors**

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**

**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.

All: We pray and act for the healing of AIDS.

**Text: Psalm 147:1-5**

**Title: Prayer 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.

**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:

**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.**

**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!**

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

**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,**

Right: to free our sisters and brothers from HIV and AIDS?

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

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

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

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

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

Left: for the dance to begin and the deaths to end?

**Text: Mark 1:35**

**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 redirected 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.