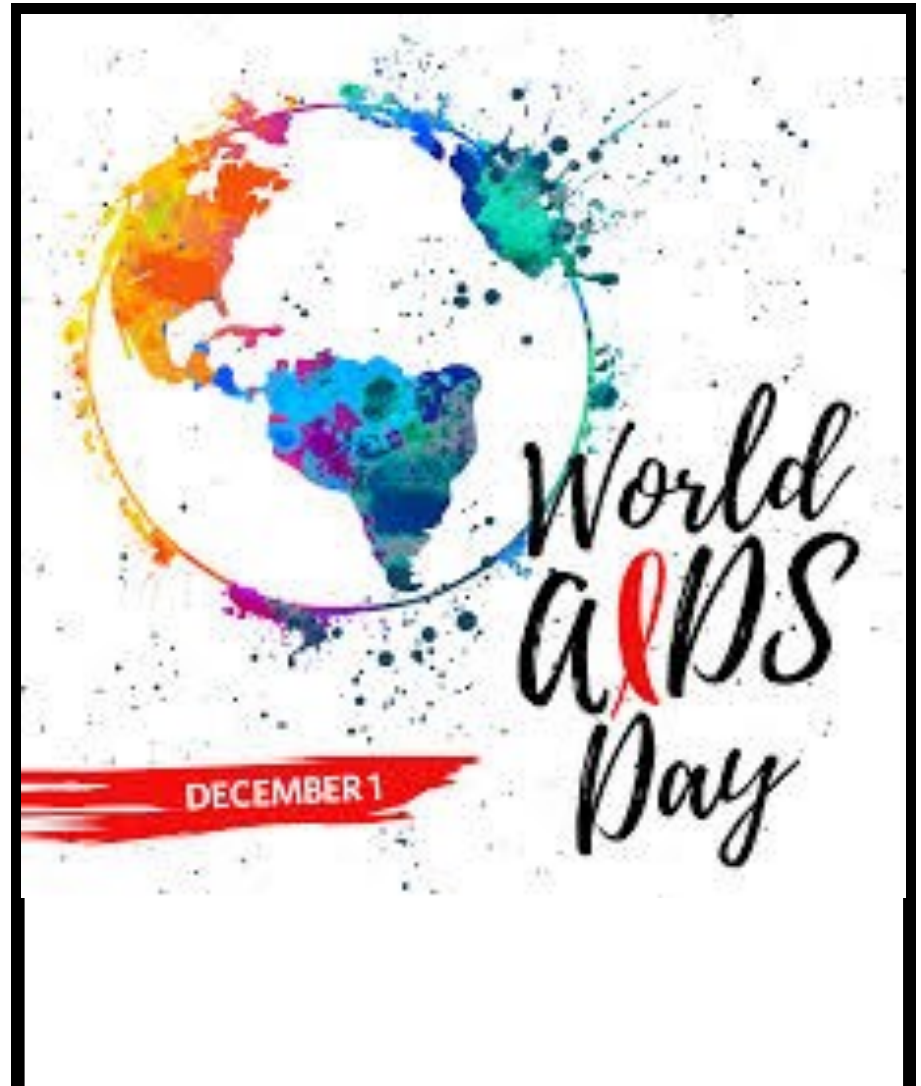




Deep Faith. Courageous Spirit. Action for Justice.

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IHM Prayer Service
For and with all who suffer
with **HIV/AIDS**

Dec. 1, 2019



WORLD AIDS DAY – DEC. 1, 2019
IHM PRAYER SERVICE
For and with all who suffer from
HIV/AIDS



Communities Make the Difference

Introduction: Chuck VanVleet

Lighting of Christ Candle with red ribbon

Opening Song: *Christ Has No Body Now but Yours*
760 *The Gather Book*

Refrain:

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours,
Here on this earth yours is the work to serve with
the joy of compassion.

No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,
no hands but yours to soothe all its suffer'ing,
no touch but yours to bind the broken hope of the
people of God.

Refrain

No eyes but yours to see what Christ would see,
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;
no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy of the city of God.

Refrain

No feet but yours to journey with the poor,
to walk this world with mercy and justice,
Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace for the
children of God

Refrain

Give us strength to love each other, ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother,
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.

Refrain

You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your
way of healing, of compassion, fill each heart.

Refrain

Text/Tune: Marty Haugen
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For doctors and nurses serving at free clinics under stressful conditions
For volunteers who face overwhelming problems without means to help
For ourselves who can make a difference by support and advocacy

Response: Spirit of God, give us hearts to respond

Closing Prayer

Loving God, we lift up all those suffering from HIV and AIDS: bring your healing and restoration to their bodies, minds and spirits. Lead us to do whatever it will take to eradicate this illness from the lives of those who are touched by it, both directly and indirectly. We offer this prayer, trusting in you and the strength of your Spirit. Amen

Adapted from a prayer by the National African American Catholic HIV/AIDS Task Force

Closing Song: *Healer of our Every Ill*
960 *The Gather Book*

Refrain:

Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow, give us peace beyond our fear and hope beyond our sorrow

You who know our fears and sadness, Grace us with your peace and gladness, Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.

Refrain

In the pain and joy, beholding grace is still unfolding,
Give us all your vision, God of love.

Refrain

Through every gift give back to those in need; As Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing, with ev'ry gift a benediction be to the people of God

Refrain

*Text/Tune: St Teresa of Avila adapted by Steven C. Warner
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Opening Prayer: All

God of Promise, today we are mindful of our sisters and brothers suffering with HIV and AIDS. We ask your healing presence on millions of people living with the disease today; particularly children who are infected or who have been orphaned by the disease.

Make of us a safe haven for those who are abandoned, discriminated against and rejected on account of their illness. Inspire us to speak out for a just distribution of health care and medical aid in this country and for generosity in sharing our resources with those struggling under the weight of this epidemic overseas.

As we begin our Advent celebration of waiting in hope for the birth of your Son, let us remember those across the world who wait in hope for a cure. Amen.

Catholic Health Care Association

Reading from Colossians Chapter 3:12 -17

Reader 1: My soul pleads for mercy; my heart is saddened by the stigma and discrimination around me, against me, and in me. Who will listen as I scream? Who will see my tears? No one but you, Oh God. my source of strength, you have chosen me.

(Reflective Silence)

Reader 2: You have seen my weakness and strength. Let your voice bring hope from the highest mountain top. Let your spirit take over me. HIV has taken over my blood, but it has not taken my spirit away. It has not taken my joy away. It has not taken my voice away. Instead, God has entrusted me to be the voice. Lord, you know I will fall. You know I will stumble along the way. You know my heart's desires. You know my heart's temptations. You know my thoughts and my every step.

(Reflective Silence)

Reader 3: Pick me up when I fall. Feed me when I am hungry. Quench me when I am thirsty. Clothe me when I am naked. Love will overcome HIV. Love will be my source of strength. Love is unconditional and with no limits. Love is food and a pure essence for the soul, the mind and the spirit. Love does not separate, discriminate, hate, or judge. Love taught me to embrace my disease, to bring life and hope to those who have lost it. Together with love, we can overcome. Together with love, our voices will be heard. Together with love, we can end this epidemic. It is a promise!

Embrace Your Afflictions written by Rev. Kerolos Saleib
United Methodist Communications
<http://www.umc.org/videos>

What can we do together to keep those who suffer in any way from HIV and AIDS, in the forefront of our hearts, minds and prayers?

Prayers of Petition

For those who have no food to keep their immune systems functioning

For those who are afraid to be tested lest they have the dreaded virus;

For those who have no access to clinics, to anti-retroviral drugs

Response: Spirit of God, give us hearts to respond.

For those who have no money to buy seeds, school uniforms, transport

For those who have no identity documents to secure basic grants

For those who feel alone and afraid because of their HIV status

Response: Spirit of God, give us hearts to respond.

For those without strength to raise their own children

For grandmothers and children raising orphans

For people hiding in rich homes, for invisible squatters living in camps

Response: Spirit of God, give us hearts to respond.