

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Grace of God is coming.

Bringing salvation to all! [Titus 2:11a, adapt.] Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Isaiah describes nations streaming to the mountaintop where the Lord's rule will prevail, giving hope to a scattered people. This Advent we pray that we too hold to a vision of the world ruled by the Lord. O Lord, as your chosen people hoped for your Kingdom to come, we long for a world where there is no threat of war; where resources can be used for the physical and spiritual well-being of all; where there is no favoritism showed to the rich and powerful; where instruments of war and hate, such as machetes and guns, will no longer be used for hurting, stealing, and killing; where the "wrongs of the world will be made right." We long for a time when we will be in peace with our people and our neighbors, a time when you, Lord Jesus, will be our ruler and we will always walk in your light.

Let us go to the mountain of the Lord.

Come, Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Let Him teach us of His ways so we can walk in His paths.

Come, Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Let us use our tools and resources to help and feed our neighbor.

Come, Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Let us live in peace with each other and our neighbors.

Come, Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

LIGHT THE FIRST CANDLE

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing,

So that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A Hymn of Praise

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hymn 196

Children's Time

Choral Selection

Gospel Reading

Luke 21: 25- 36

Sermon

Jesus and HIV

Response to the Word

Litany for World AIDS Day, adapted from the United Church of Christ

Gracious God, we celebrate your love for us all, and give thanks that You listen to us when we pray to You. Send your Spirit upon us now and lift us up. Encourage and strengthen us. Instill in us your wisdom, and increase our faith. Hear us, O God, as we pray on this World AIDS Day:

Help us stop AIDS and keep the promise.

Hear us, O God, on this World AIDS Day as we pray for the 15 million children who have lost parents, and for the 3.4 million children who are themselves living with HIV. Empower us to help change conditions that put them at risk: poverty, war, lack of education, and inadequate health care. For the sake of the children:

Help us stop AIDS and keep the promise.

Hear us, O God, on this World AIDS Day and embolden us to eliminate HIV and AIDS- related stigma and discrimination. Help us break through silence that blocks effective response: let us teach all who are vulnerable about the means to prevent infection, let us encourage the frightened to know their HIV status, let us encourage all who are at risk to seek treatment. In the power of your love, which casts out fear:

Help us stop AIDS and keep the promise.

Hear us, O God, on this World AIDS Day and empower us to nurture in ourselves and in our communities faithful stewardship of your good gift of sexuality. Help us to reclaim this powerful gift, teach us to use and enjoy this blessing so that our sons and daughters may grow in the values of love, self esteem, and sexual health, and your communities may grow in mutual responsibility, justice and inclusivity.

O God, embolden us with your Spirit, so that we can stop AIDS and keep our promise.

Grant that your church may be a healing presence in the face of HIV and AIDS. Show us your vision and guide us to the words and action that will make a difference. On this World AIDS Day, we raise our prayers to You, placing our trust in You for compassion, healing, and courage in the struggle to stop AIDS, to keep the promise. Hear us and answer us according to the richness of your mercies.

Amen.

Offertory Hymn

What Gift Can We Bring?

Hymn 87

Offering

In honor of the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, Advance #982345

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

Thanksgiving and Communion

The United Methodist Hymnal

Hymn 12

Sending Forth

Recessional Hymn *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Hymn 213

Dismissal with Blessing

As we await the coming of the Christ Child, may we be of action and prayer for those living with HIV and AIDS in our community, country and around the world, bringing an end to this epidemic. Go in Peace

Closing Voluntary