



2020 World AIDS Day Worship Service

(World AIDS Day is December 1. This service was adapted from “A Service for Wholeness for Use with a Congregation,” from the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1993) 1001-1015.)

THEME: *GLOBAL SOLIDARITY, SHARED RESPONSIBILITY*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 103)

Bless the Holy One, my soul.
Let all that is within me bless God’s name.
Bless the Holy One, my soul.
Remember all that God has done—
forgiving our sins,
healing our diseases,
delivering us from despair,
crowning us with steadfast love and mercy.
God will satisfy us with goodness all our lives.
God will raise us up and renew our strength.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, our constant help and strength,
we come to you in prayer for our church, our community, and our world,
for all of our lives have been affected by HIV and AIDS.
Reach out to us with your healing, saving touch;
draw us together in wholeness and true community;
extend your loving embrace to the excluded and fearful,
so that all may know your life-giving power and love;
through Jesus Christ, the healer of the world. Amen.

HYMN “O Christ, the healer, we have come” p. 265 UMH

CALL TO CONFESSION (Romans 8)

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
God has already set us free from the power of sin and death.
By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are beloved children of God.
Therefore, with confidence in God’s abundant mercy,
let us confess our sins against God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, you know our sinful ways—
we have tried to deny the reality of AIDS;
we have neglected sisters and brothers in need;

we have been silent when you called us to speak out;
we have stepped back in fear, instead of reaching out in love.
Have mercy on us, living God.
Restore us to right relationships with you
and with one another; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Silent prayer.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news of the gospel: There is nothing in life or in death
that can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and free.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The proclamation of the Word should offer hope and encouragement to those living with HIV and AIDS, and should challenge the church to engage in ministries of compassion, outreach, and advocacy. We are a global church called to stand in partnership with ALL God's people, and on this day, we lift up those living with HIV or AIDS. We recognize our responsibility to stand in solidarity with them to eradicate stigma that can cause great harm to those living with the virus. There is good news to share: Jesus is still at work in our world, healing the sick, welcoming the stranger, binding up the broken, raising the dead. Christ calls us to participate in this redeeming, reconciling ministry, offering ourselves in love and service to others as Christ gave his own life for the world that God so loves.

HYMN "Be Still, My Soul" p. 534 UMH

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD (Romans 12)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters,
by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship.

(During this time of silent reflection, worshipers may consider what God is doing in their lives, and how they might offer themselves to the service of Jesus Christ in the world.)

PRAYER FOR HEALING (1 Corinthians 12)

Holy God, you have made us one body,
the body of Christ,
for we were all baptized in the one Spirit.
When one member suffers, we all suffer together;
when one member is honored, we all rejoice.

Hear now our prayers for the church, the community, and the world:
For all who are sick and suffering,
that they may know your comfort and care ...
God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**
For families, friends, partners, and children,
that they may show your amazing love ...

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For doctors, nurses, and caregivers,
that they may extend your healing touch ...

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those engaged in research and study,
that they may receive your wisdom ...

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For equal access to life-saving medication,
that your justice may flow down like water ...

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For an end to stigma and discrimination,
that all your children may be reconciled ...

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For healing and fullness of life for all,
that we may glimpse your new creation ...

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, you have given us many good gifts
and have called us to love and serve one another,
even as Christ Jesus has loved us.

Use the gifts that you have given us for the common good—
renewing hope, restoring life, and reconciling all that is broken—
as you fulfill your eternal purpose for all the world;
through Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER (Psalm 23)

God, you are my shepherd
there is nothing I lack.

You make me lie down in green pastures;
you lead me beside still waters;
you restore my soul.

You lead me in right paths
for your name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in your house
my whole life long. Amen.

HYMN "There Is a Balm in Gilead" p. 375 UMH

BLESSING (Numbers 6)

May God bless you and keep you. May God be kind and gracious to you.

May God look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

A sign of peace may be exchanged by all.

The United Methodist Global AIDS Committee (UMGAC) is an interagency initiative in The United Methodist Church and has been actively educating and advocating with and for those living with HIV or AIDS. We were created by the 2004 General Conference of The United Methodist Church. Please visit our web page for more information and additional resources: www.umglobalaidsfund.com. The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund is an Advance Special in the UMC to which you can make a donation to support global projects addressing HIV & AIDS. For more information and to donate, click [here](#).