



Worship Service for World AIDS Day 2007

This worship service has been prepared for use in commemorating World AIDS Day 2007 or at other times when your church wants to focus on HIV and AIDS. The service below can be photocopied for members of the congregation. Important notes for conducting the service are included on this page and are written in italics throughout the service plan. Feel free to adapt it to your own context. This order of service can also be downloaded as a word document at www.e-alliance.ch/media/media-7071.doc for you to easily make adjustments. There is a list of additional suggested hymns at the end of the liturgy.

Leadership is the theme of this worship service. In the response to HIV and AIDS it is crucial that people in the church choose to accept leadership where there is none and to strengthen people already leading in the HIV response whether nationally, in their cities and villages, and in the churches themselves.

The worship takes into account the proximity of World AIDS Day (1 December) and the first Sunday of Advent (2 December) and incorporates the Scripture readings corresponding to that Sunday. Since the theme of World AIDS Day this year is leadership, the Bible reading needs to be done with strength as an act exemplifying the leadership required by this issue.

Preparation

The following suggestions will help in the planning of the worship and in the preparation of materials needed for it.

This worship service works best if people are seated in a circle. However, it can be adapted for spaces with fixed pews.

The following symbols are used in the service:

- In the center of the circle (or prominent at the front of the church) is a **large red ribbon**, symbol of HIV and AIDS. It may be easiest to create this from a long piece of red fabric.
- A **large candle** is placed in the middle or in front of the ribbon. It will be lit during the service to represent the igniting of new passion in responding to HIV and AIDS. It can also be the candle traditionally lit for the first Sunday in Advent.
- The prayers of intercession should be read by 6 different readers, each one symbolizing a different type of leadership, for example: government, business, labor, organizations/institutions, churches, men, women, children, or youth. **Different colored ribbons or cloths** worn by the readers will be needed to symbolize different types and styles of leadership. These ribbons or cloths might be worn by the 6 readers from the start of the service.
- **Little candles** decorated with small red ribbons will be distributed to the congregation and lit as the sign of commitment.



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Gathering

The congregation gathers outside the place for worship if this is appropriate in the local context. The people are welcomed and given a brief introduction about the theme of the celebration: **Take the Lead. Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise.**

Invitation to the worship

Reader 1: Come, let us go up to meet the God of life,
Reader 2: to the fountain of all hope,
Reader 3: that God may teach us God's ways,
Reader 4: and that we may walk on God's pathways guided by God's light.
(adapted from Isaiah 2:3-5)

Hymn 1

The congregation moves into the worship space while singing a familiar hymn.

Hace Tiempo

Atilio Humzicker
 Delcio Källsten

Ha-ce tiem-po tu pre - sen - cia se re - ve - la'en - tre no - so - tros, hay hue - llas en nues - tra
 vi - da de'a - que - llos que te si - guie - ron: son tus se - ña - les. _____
 Tal co - mo'a - yer, ven hoy tam - bién, re -
 vé - la - te y ha - bi - ta'en - tre no - so - tros o - tra vez.

1. Hace tiempo tu presencia se revela entre nosotros,
 hay huellas en nuestra vida de aquellos que te siguieron:
 son tus señales.



**//Tal como ayer, ven hoy también,
revélate y habita entre nosotros otra vez.//**

2. Queremos que nos enseñes a aceptar tu ofrecimiento,
de ser luz en nuestro mundo, para que alumbre tu reino
de vida nueva.

3. Presos de sombras de muerte quedamos paralizados,
odios, rencores, violencias, nos tienen acorralados;
tú nos liberas.

4. Hoy es el tiempo preciso, vamos alegres contigo,
no quedamos atrapados, lucharemos por la vida
en esta tierra.

Entrance antiphon

Leader: Come Lord, share this time with us
just as you share our lives every day,
with light and shadow,
with music and joyful songs filling the air
and with, at other times, the sad wail of the soul
suffering without hope.

People: **Come, Lord, share this time with us
just as one day you shared the dusty paths of life
with men, children and women,
preaching, healing, suffering, dying, loving,
raised up to keep alive hope in your new reign
we keep seeking.**

Leader: Come, Lord, share this time with us
just as you shared words, gestures, hugs
and a real loaf of bread broken in pieces,
a sign of your complete commitment
to a world hungry for peace, justice and life.

People: **Come, Lord, share this time with us.
Mark us with the fire of your presence
transforming and renewing our lives.**

All: **Come, Lord, share this time with us.
Strengthen us as leaders and inspire us
to keep the promise to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS.**

Call to Confession

Leader: Take a moment to look at the red ribbon. People are living with HIV. People are struggling and people are dying. Who do you see there? Who do you see there that you wish you didn't see?

We live in a world which does not want to see and sometimes we must confess we do not want to see either. So in silence, one by one, you are invited to turn your back on the ribbon.



(If the leader is part of the circle the leader should begin this gesture and indicate the direction of the action. In other settings the leader should indicate where the action should begin and how it moves throughout the congregation.)

Silence

All remain silent until the reading of the words of the song below “Solo le pido a Dios”

Leader: “God, I ask only:
that I don’t become indifferent to pain,
that I don’t become indifferent to injustice,
that I don’t become indifferent to the future.”

Silence

Litany of Confession

Where printing is not available or a projector is being used the response of the people is simply “Forgive us and show us new pathways”

Reader 1: We confess to you, God, the indifference,
which in the guise of ignorance
diverts our eyes
from people living with HIV and their loved ones.

People: **Forgive us and show us new pathways where information and knowledge transform us.**

Reader 2: We confess to you, God, the indifference,
barricaded by prejudice,
which deafens our ears
to the cry
of people living with HIV and their loved ones.

People: **Forgive us and show us new pathways of care and support.**

Reader 3: We confess to you, God, the indifference,
blanketed by fear,
which immobilizes our hands
from the needs
of people living with HIV and their loved ones.

People: **Forgive us and show us new pathways of love and tender, affirming touch.**

Reader 4: We confess to you, God, the indifference,
shielded by rejection,
which closes our hearts
to the separation and powerlessness
of people living with HIV and their loved ones.



People: Forgive us and show us new pathways of accompaniment and acceptance by communities who take the lead.

Reader 5: We confess to you, God, our indifference, wrapped in isolation, which causes us to abandon people living with HIV and their loved ones.

People: Forgive us and show us new pathways of commitment and leadership.

Silence

Hymn 2

Leader: As we sing, you are invited to turn around to face the red ribbon again.

Ante Ti

Eseario Sosa Rodriguez: Venezuela

♩ = 88

Nos pre-sen - ta - mos hoy an - te ti, o Dios, con lo que so-mos y co-mo es-
 Now we are gath-ered be-fore you here, O God. Our-selves we of-fer, just as we

ta - mos. Nos pre-sen - ta - mos hoy an - te ti, o Dios, con lo que so-mos y co-mo es-
 are. Now we are gath-ered be-fore you here, O God. Our-selves we of-fer, just as we

ta - mos. Per-dón pe - di - mos por - que fal - ta - mos cuan-do de - ja - mos de ha - cer lo
 are. We ask for - give-ness when we do no - thing to help the need - y, to help

buc - no, cuan-do al en - fer - mo ya la que su - fre la a - ban - do - na - mos. Per - dón pe -
 the sick. When - e'er the help-less, all those who suf - fer, are left in mis - ery, we ask for -

di - mos, per - dón cla - ma - mos, per - dón pe - di - mos, per - dón cla - ma - mos.
 give-ness. We beg for - give-ness. We ask for - give-ness. We cry, "For - give us."

Music and Español © 1994 Eseario Sosa Rodriguez Apartado 1025 Barquisimeto Venezuela. English, Lois C. Kroehler

At the end of the hymn the Leader invites people to be seated. The Leader who says the words of forgiveness lights the candle in the middle of the red ribbon.

Words of Forgiveness

Leader: God keeps God's promise of forgiveness to all who draw near recognizing their sin. With an open, loving heart, God acknowledges our fidelity



even in the little we have done,
and gives us new opportunities
to be good and faithful servants
in the much that still needs to be done. Amen

*The Leader then shows the large candle to all the people in a slow gesture.
The Leader says "Take the Lead."*

Hymn 3

Reading from the New Testament

Romans 13:11-14 (NRSV)

The Leader takes the large candle and gives it to the Epistle reader with the words: "Take the Lead". The Epistle reader takes the candle and the Leader opens the Bible and holds it for the reader. The reader must be careful not to blow out the candle while saying the words. If possible this would be best done inside or near the AIDS ribbon.

"Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.

The reader pauses.

For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near.

The reader pauses.

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;

The reader stops and lights one of the small candles.

let us live honourably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to gratify its desires."

The reader lights one of the small candles.

The Leader closes the Bible and takes the large candle and puts it in its place.

Hallelujah (sung)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24:36-44 (NRSV)

The Leader takes the large candle and gives it to the Gospel reader with the words: "Take the Lead." If possible the reader does the reading while walking around the shape of the ribbon. This would be most effective if the reading was memorized and the reader lifted the large candle and carried it.



“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away,

The reader stops at this point as if to reflect on all those who have been swept away.

so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken

Again the reader stops to remember the one taken.

and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken

The reader stops to remember the one taken.

and one will be left.

Keep awake therefore,

The reader pauses.

for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken in to. Therefore you must also be ready,

The reader lights one of the small candles.

for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The reader now gives the candle to the Leader. The Leader takes it to the person who will give the sermon and gives it to him or her with the words: “Take the Lead”. The person can either keep the candle while preaching, or if this is not practicable put it back in the center of the ribbon.

Sermon

Hymn 4

Here I Am, Lord

Affirmation of Faith

**People: We believe in the God of Life
who makes men and women in God’s image and likeness.
Created equal, all people deserve a full life with dignity
regardless of age, sex, race, religion, sexual orientation or nationality.
God guides us towards fountains where our lives can be renewed
and made abundant.**



We believe in Jesus Christ, God's son,
who walks by our side.
Because Jesus shows us his great love and embraces us with it,
we have the example
to follow in love,
embracing and supporting people living with HIV.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who encourages and comforts us.
One fruit of the Spirit is a motivated and animated community of faith
touched by its fire, power and love.

We believe that the Church, in all its different expressions, must every day
practice justice and compassion for all our sisters and brothers who are
sick, poor, hungry, imprisoned or a stranger in a place not their own.

We believe that the Church, with its many gifts,
has been called to make an impact on situations of oppression
that continue in this world
by standing together, struggling together,
and offering comfort and accompaniment at the time they are most
needed.

We believe that the Church, in its many expressions involving children,
youth and adults, needs to play a stronger role in providing leadership in
the response to HIV and AIDS.

Our Promises

People: Because of what we believe,
we commit ourselves to be part of the global response to HIV and AIDS,
keeping our promise to stop the hurt it causes,
recognizing our fragility and vulnerability,
but also knowing that we are instruments of light
that comes from the One who came to give life, life in its fullness.

We commit ourselves to promote the development of sensitive, shared,
informed and generous leadership,
capable of influencing faith communities and social politics in our country
and beyond our borders.

We commit ourselves to open ourselves and our church,
to provide welcoming places where people living with HIV and their loved
ones,
can find love, acceptance, understanding, a listening ear, support and
growth.

We commit ourselves, from this moment forward, until God's reign of
health and life comes in its fullness. Amen.



Symbol of commitment

Leader: You are invited to come and light a small candle. Then you give it to the person in front of you with the words: "Take the Lead." The next person will light a candle and give it to you. As there is space you may remain around the ribbon for a moment before returning to your seat being careful as you move with a lit candle.

Psalm 121

Person (*read in a dramatic anguished voice*):

I lift up my eyes to the hills! Where will my help come from?
My help comes from the creator, who gives me health.

(*The next three leaders read with a tone of comfort*)

Reader 1: God will not let your foot slip; God will never become drowsy or sleepy.
The One watching over you will not slumber.

Reader 2: The Lord will keep you; the Lord is your shade,
The sun will not harm you by day nor the moon by night.

Reader 3: The Lord will keep you from all evil;
the Lord will watch over your coming and going and will protect you now and forevermore.

Hymn 5

During the hymn the people who will lead the prayers of thanksgiving come forward each with their different colored piece of fabric.

Pelas Dores deste Mundo

Rudolfo Gaede Neto: Brazil

Pe - las do - res des - te mun - do ó Se - nhor, im - plo - ra - mos pi - e -
For the trou - bles and the suf - ferings of the world, God, we call up - on your

da - de. A um só tem - po ge - me a cri - a - ção. Teus ou -
mer - cy: the whole cre - a - tion's la - bor - ing in pain! Lend an

vi - dos se in - cli - nem ao cla - mor des - sa gen - te o - pri - mi - da.
ear to the ris - ing cry for help from op - pressed and hope - less peo - ple.

A - pres - sa - te com tu - a sal - va - ção. A tu - a paz,
Come, has - ten your sal - va - tion, heal - ing love. We pray for peace,

ben - di - ta e ir - ma - na - da co'a jus - ti - ça, a -
the bless - ed peace that comes from mak - ing jus - tice, to



bra - ce o mun - do in - tei - ro. tem com - pai - xão! O teu po - der
cov - er and em - brace us. Have mer - cy, Lord. We pray for power,
sus - ten - te o tes - te mu - nho do teu po - vo. Teu
the power that will sus - tain your peo - ple's wit - ness: un -
Rci - no vc - nha a nós! Ky - ri - c - c - lc - i - son!
til your king - dom comes, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

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Prayer

Reader 1: Thank you God,
for international organizations that have committed themselves to respond to HIV and AIDS. Strengthen their leaders and renew their conviction to Stop AIDS. May they keep the promise.

This person takes the cloth from around them and holds it up.

Reader 2: Thank you God,
for government organizations and diverse networks of civil society that work to defend the human rights of people living with HIV. We pray for all who have the political power to make decisions. May your justice work in them so they recognize the full humanity of people living with HIV and gain a renewed sensitivity to their needs.

This person takes the cloth from around them and ties it to the cloth of the preceding person.

Reader 3: Thank you God,
for different churches that have taken up their commitment to accompany, strengthen and encourage people living with HIV. Support them and inspire their creativity as they seek new methods and strategies to face this task.

This person takes the cloth from around them and ties it to the cloth of the preceding person.

Reader 4: Thank you God,
for this time of Advent, when we remember the incarnation of your Son, Jesus Christ. As we think of the coming of the child Jesus, we pray for babies, boys and girls who are living with HIV. We remember the millions of children orphaned by AIDS, who are too often left to look after their own brothers and sisters, their own education, and their own homes.

This person takes the cloth from around them and ties it to the cloth of the preceding person.

Reader 5: Thank you God,
for those who lead with soothing hands, kind voices and encouraging smiles, who day by day offer their care to people living with HIV and dying of AIDS related illness.



This person takes the cloth from around them and ties it to the cloth of the preceding person.

Reader 6: Thank you God,
for all of our brothers and sisters living with HIV. They are a precious gift to us
and their dignity is given by you – not to be taken away by anyone. We pray that
you strengthen their spirits and give them hope in the full life that you offer.

People: Amen.

*This person takes the cloth from around them and ties it to the cloth of the preceding person and then joins the end
with the cloth of the first reader tying them together to make a circle around the red ribbon and candle in the centre.*

*The circle of cloth is now completed and the readers hold it high, and if possible move in a circular motion around
the AIDS ribbon. They hold it up during the prayer to follow.*

Community Prayer

People: Lord, you have no other body than ours,
You have no other hands than ours,
Your only feet belong to us
And ours are the eyes that with your compassion look at the world.
Ours are the feet with which you walk around doing good
Ours are the hands with which we now bless.
Lord, here are our bodies, our whole lives. We want to be leaders whose
bodies are extensions of yours, so that the promise of abundant life is a
reality for our brothers and sisters who live with or are affected by HIV and
AIDS. Amen.

They place the circle of cloth around the AIDS ribbon.

Sending Out

The Leader takes the candle and lifts it

Leader: God of life and health,
in Jesus Christ, you have drawn close to us.
During this time of expectant waiting
inspire within our hearts a militant hope
so we can walk along side people who live with HIV
and make visible the values of your kingdom,
the kingdom of your beloved son, our savior and brother.

People: Amen.

Benediction

Hymn 6

End of Service



Other Suggested Hymns

Hymn 1

Toda la Tierra - Alberto Taulé *found in* “Metodista Mil Voces” and/or “Cáliz de Bendiciones” hymnbook (p. 78).

Hace Tiempo

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus – lyrics by Charles Wesley

Hail to the Lord’s Anointed – lyrics by James Montgomery

Come Lord - Gerardo Oberman.

Hymn 2

Ante Ti - Eseario Sosa.

Kyrie Eleison

Hymn 3

Gracias, Señor - Jorge A. Lockward *found in* “Cáliz de Bendiciones” hymnbook (p. 27).

Hymn 4

Heme Aquí / Here I Am, Lord – *found in* “Cáliz de Bendiciones” hymnbook (p. 289).

Prepare the way of the Lord – canon from the Taizé community

I want to walk as a Child of the light – Kathleen Thomerson

Take my life and let it be consecrated – lyrics by Frances R. Havergal

Hymn 5

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This little light of mine – African-American spiritual

Hymn 6

Enviados Somos de Dios – Jorge Maldonado *found in* “Celebremos Juntos” hymnbook (p. 128).

O Master let me walk with thee – lyrics by Washington Gladden

O Jesus I have promised – lyrics by John E. Bode

Credits

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Entrance antiphon “Come Lord,” by Gerardo Oberman from the book, Liturgical Resources of the 4th Assembly of the Latin American Council of Churches. Adapted by Elizabeth Hernández Carillo. Used by permission.

A quotation is used from “Solo le pido a Dios” by Leon Gioco.

Psalm 121 is adapted from the Latin American Bible, Published by Alba House, June 1984.

Community Prayer adapted from a prayer attributed to Saint Theresa of Avila.

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