



# Global Solidarity, Shared Responsibility

World AIDS Day 2020  
Order of service



World Council  
of Churches



# Order of Service for World AIDS Day 2020

## Global Solidarity, Shared Responsibility

*In the context of the '16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence'*

### Opening Sentences

Leader: O Lord, open to us the gates of righteousness,  
That we may enter through them and give thanks to you.

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;  
God's steadfast love endures forever. *(based on Psalm 118: 19, 24 ,29)*

### OPENING SONG

### Lamentation

Leader: *Listen to us, O good Shephard,  
You reign over the whole universe!  
Stir up your might,  
Come to save us!*

God, we remember before you today our sisters, brothers, friends, young people and children we have lost to the AIDS pandemic. The 700,000 people who died in 2019, the hundreds of thousands of lives lost this year, and the 33 million people who have died from AIDS-related illnesses from the beginning of the pandemic in the 1980s. We remember them and name them in our hearts.

Silence

**Response: *Restore us, restore humanity, O God;  
Let your face shine, that we may be saved.***

Leader: *O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?  
You have fed them with the bread of tears,  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.*

We remember those who are affected by HIV as a result of them suffering from modern-day enslavement. With heavy hearts, we acknowledge that slavery is not just a historical slur; it remains very much a current reality<sup>1</sup>. More than 40 million of our sisters, brothers, friends, young people and children worldwide are victims of forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, and human trafficking. People trapped by threats, violence, coercion, deception, and abuse of power. People whose lives do not matter to those with power.

Silence

**Response: *Restore us, restore humanity, O God;  
Let your face shine, that we may be saved.***

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1      2<sup>nd</sup> December is commemorated as the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

Leader: *You make us the scorn of our neighbours;  
Our enemies laugh among themselves.  
But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
The one whom you made strong for yourself.*

As we lament, we bring to memory the more than 1 billion people living with disability<sup>2</sup>, who often experience increased risk factors associated with acquiring HIV, including poverty, increased vulnerability to sexual violence and abuse, limited access to education and healthcare, and lack of information and resources. We remember the many people living with disabilities who are also living with HIV and who face the additional stigma, exclusion and silencing.

Silence

**Response: *Restore us, restore humanity, O God;  
Let your face shine, that we may be saved.***

Leader: Our hearts and souls are grieved especially during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic when there has been an increase in isolation, disconnection, disrupted routines, diminished services and the exacerbation of abuse and exploitation among people everywhere. We lament in particular for our brothers and sisters living with HIV who may have lost their livelihoods. Already facing a bleak future, this season of uncertainty has made their lives more burdensome impacting their lives and mental well-being. We weep with and for them and others who are the most vulnerable in our communities.

**Response: *Restore us, restore humanity, O God;  
Let your face shine, that we may be saved.  
Then we will never turn back from you;  
Give us life, and we will call on your name.***

*(Prayers based on Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19)*

## SONG

### Confession

Leader: Forgiving God, today as we remember the untold lives lost because of the AIDS pandemic and those who today continue to live with HIV, we, your people confess before you that:

- We have a dearth of courage to speak up and take action against injustice and exploitation.
- We lack the faith in your power, to challenge stigma and discrimination and to work harder to transform society.
- We have neglected to live in hope each day; to wait on you and to give hope to those who are marginalized, by extending adequate support, care and treatment.
- We have not loved others as ourselves, and have not acknowledged the presence of the Divine in them.
- We have stood by silently and even contributed to the suffering and exploitation of the vulnerable and those in need.

**Response: *Forgive us, we have disobeyed you.  
Even our best efforts are but faded and dried leaves;  
Blown away by the constant gusts of our inequities.***

**Lord have mercy (Kyrie Eleison)**

Leader: O Lord, you are our Father and Mother;  
We are the clay, and you are our potter;  
Shape us and mould us, to receive your Holy Spirit;  
Overflowing with love and the water of life!  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember our iniquities forever.

**Response: Now consider, we are all your children and grant us your forgiveness. Amen.**

*(based on Isaiah 64:6,8,9)*

## Lord have mercy (Kyrie Eleison)

### A reading from the Gospel of Mark 5:25-34

Leader: Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Reflection questions:

Leader:

- In a critical time such as this, do we take the 'Good News' seriously and practice the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ with the same sense of urgency, as a divine necessity?
- People, especially women and girls, and vulnerable communities continue to experience injustices because of the HIV pandemic or COVID-19 pandemic. How can we, as followers of Jesus, take specific steps to overcome these challenges?

### Intercessory Prayers

Leader: God of compassion and mercy,  
We pray for the 38 million people in our world today who are living with HIV. We are grateful for the remarkable progress that has been made over the last decades, giving thanks for the 25 million people with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy globally. We also remember today that many still have no access to antiretroviral therapy. We bring before you the 1.8 million children, who are living with HIV, mindful that only half of that number have access to HIV medications. We pray that the 13 million children, young people, women and men, who urgently need these life-saving medications, will get the necessary support in order to access care and treatment. We pray that you grant us the grace to help make this happen.

**Response: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers!**

Leader: God of love and justice,  
help us to open our hearts and to be vessels of your unconditional love so that together we will work towards ending the stigma and discrimination that many People living with HIV continue to experience in society and in accessing services. May we be instruments of your love and compassion to those who are particularly vulnerable to HIV because of the use of drugs, their sexual practices or being incarcerated, and who frequently lack adequate access to services. We pray that faith communities embrace and accompany all people with the unconditional love of Christ. We also pray that you bless us with humility and persistence to lead this transformation by example.

**Response: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers!**

Leader: Let us say the Lord's prayer, each in our own language.

## Act of Commitment

Leader: This Advent, we stand firm, waiting on the Lord; alert and awake.  
The spirit of the Lord God is upon us;

**All: Anointed to bring good news to the oppressed, to lead by example.**

Leader: Adorning a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit;

**All: We commit ourselves to ensure that the 13 million children, young people, women and men living with HIV who are yet to receive antiretroviral treatment, will get the care, treatment and services that they are deprived of<sup>3</sup>.**

Leader: We commit to heal and care for the sick and brokenhearted;

**All: Bearing one another's burdens, fulfilling the teachings of Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: We commit to proclaiming liberty to the captives;

**All: And release the enslaved.**

Leader: We commit to acknowledge you and serve you, Lord, in the other;

**All: Seeing you Lord, in the neediest and most vulnerable.**

(Adapted from Isaiah 61:1, 3 ; Galatians 6:2 ; Matthew 25: 40)

## SONG

### Benediction

**Now may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts so that we will go from this place to demonstrate Christ's love to the world, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



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