



**POINT OF LIGHT**  
A VIGIL FOR WORLD AIDS DAY

DECEMBER 1, 2004

THE PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

ORDER OF SERVICE

# POINT OF LIGHT

## A VIGIL FOR WORLD AIDS DAY

DECEMBER 1, 2004

### REFRAIN

Antiphon (Ps. 80:3)

Kevin Hackett

With great breadth

Re - store us, O God of hosts; show the  
light of your face, and we shall be saved.

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a single treble clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff contains the first two phrases, and the second staff contains the final two phrases. The music ends with a double bar line.

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### POINT OF LIGHT

#### A VIGIL FOR WORLD AIDS DAY

DECEMBER 1, 2004

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund created this vigil for use by parishes and groups on World AIDS Day, December 1, 2004, during the first week of Advent. It can be adapted for use throughout the year.

PWRDF acknowledges HIV/AIDS as a global pandemic that affects all of us. World AIDS Day 2004 focuses on women, girls and HIV/AIDS.

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### WELCOME

In our vigil today, we will be welcomed into the lives of a small community of women in Etwatwa, West Rand, South Africa. Throughout Etwatwa, small one-room houses, made of recycled shipping containers surrounded by small gardens, serve as weekly gathering places for women living with AIDS. They are called Point of Light houses and are supported by The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. The women eat together, rest, speak of their lives, laugh and cry. They are points of light for each other. They have graciously and courageously invited us to join them by sharing their stories and their names.

## THE VIGIL

**Host:** As part of our preparation to hear their stories—  
points of light in the darkness of AIDS—  
we light the first candle of Advent (Reader 1 lights candle)  
—a point of light in the darkness of winter, as we await the coming  
Christ.  
Let us pray.

**All:** **Holy, light-giving God,  
as guests in this Point of Light gathering,  
open our minds and hearts to our hosts' generosity;  
open us to their light.  
Like Mary, help us keep all of these things in our hearts and  
ponder them,  
for the sake of Jesus,  
whom we long to see in their faces  
and hear in their words.  
Amen.**

**Refrain:** **Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your face, and we shall be saved.**

*Be still.*

## AN INVITATION TO LUNCH *(Guest and Reader)*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Refrain:** **Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your face, and we shall be saved.**

*Be still.*

## MEMORY BOXES *(Guest and Readers)*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Refrain:** **Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your face, and we shall be saved.**

*Be still.*

**Guest:** Each one shows me the contents of her box. All of them include  
information about their families and how they found out they  
were HIV positive.

*Pass the Memory Box around the circle as each person reads a letter.*

### **Letter 1**

My name is Joyce Sylvia

### **Letter 2**

My name is Sophie

### **Letter 3**

My name is Ludi

### **Letter 4**

My name is Martha

### **Letter 5**

My name is Naomi

## NAMING *(Host and Readers)*

\* \* \* \* \*

### CRYING OUT *Psalm 13*

**Host:** How long, O God? Will you forget me forever?  
**All:** **How long will you hide your face from me?**  
**How long must I bear pain in my soul,**  
**and have sorrow in my heart all day long?**  
**How long shall my enemy have the upper hand over me?**

**Host:** Consider and answer me, O God:  
**All:** **give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death—**  
**lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed,”**  
**and my foes rejoice because I am shaken.**

**Host:** But I have trusted in your steadfast love;  
**All:** **my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.**  
**I will sing to you, O God**  
**because you have dealt bountifully with me.**

*Psalms Anew: In Inclusive Language.* Compiled by Nancy Schreck, OSF and Maureen Leach, OSF. Copyright © 1987 by Saint Mary’s Press, 702 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN 55987-1320. All rights reserved.

**Refrain:** **Restore us, O God of hosts;**  
**show the light of your face, and we shall be saved.**

*Be still.*

*Reader 2 puts flowers in the Memory Box beside Advent candle.*

**Reader 2:** When my children open this box, they will know I really loved flowers.

**Guest:** Each woman writes letters to her children, with titles such as “A story about me”, “A day in my life”, “What I want to say”, “Rules of the house”—as if she was leaving on a trip, and “Rules to live a happy life”.

**Letter 6**  
Rules to live a happy life

**Letter 7**  
Here is the most important advice

**Letter 8**  
I like to plea to my son

*Reader 3 puts a small Bible in the Memory Box near Advent candle.*

### LAMENT *Lamentations 3.19-24, NRSV*

**Host:** The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall!

**All:** **My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.**

**Host:** But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

**All:** **The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,**  
**his mercies never come to an end;**  
**they are new every morning;**  
**great is your faithfulness.**

**Host:** “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

**Refrain:** **Restore us, O God of hosts;**  
**show the light of your face, and we shall be saved.**

*Be still.*

## FOSTER MOTHERS *(Host and Foster Mother)*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Refrain:**     **Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your face, and we shall be saved.**

*Be still.*

**Guest:**     How would I react in their circumstances? Would I have the grace, the generosity, to share what I am going through with strangers, to invite them to a meal, to let them take pictures, to show them my box, my letter that I am writing for my children when I die? Sitting with them in the garden in the late afternoon, I feel humbled. I don't know if I could have such grace in the moment. I feel that in their generosity, they have allowed me to enter a sacred place, and that I should step silently, tentatively and respectfully. They are on a journey that for most of us is still a distant possibility.

### Letter 9

I want to say

### Letter 10

Being positive is not a matter of death

### Letter 11

I respect AIDS

### Letter 12

I wish to be like other people

## Your Light Shall Rise

Isaiah 58.9b-11

**Host:**     If you remove the yoke from among you,  
The pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

If you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

**Reader 1:**   then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

**Reader 2:**   The Lord will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;

**Reader 3:**   and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

**Refrain:**     **Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your face, and we shall be saved.**

*Be still.*

**Guest:**     Let us come before God and welcome the stranger:

**All:**         **Let us welcome those we do not want to welcome,  
those we would rather pass by.**

**Guest:**     Let us reconcile ourselves to God and then to each other:

**All:**         **We ask you God to forgive us and help us to forgive others,  
so that we can accept them with open arms.**

**May our hearts be transformed by and with love,  
that we may help those living with HIV and AIDS  
in whatever way we can.**

**May we change our actions from hostility to hospitality,  
and welcome you Lord in everyone we meet.**

**Amen.**

## POINTS OF LIGHT

**Host:** Across boundaries of time, economy, culture, and experience we have been guests in a circle of twelve women living and dying with AIDS in Etwatwa, South Africa. They have shared with us the darkness and the light of their lives. They have shared with us their courage. Let us learn from their examples and give the gift of light and memory to the people in our lives who are affected by HIV/AIDS. In the stillness of this winter night, please take a candle, and as you light it from the Advent wreath, name silently or aloud people you know who are living and dying with HIV/AIDS. Then take your lit candle with you to your seat. When everyone is done, I will name the women of Etwatwa.

### *Music while participants light candles*

**Host:** (*Lighting the last candle*) Teresa Mncube, Monwahla Majoja, Sanele Lokxwayo, Youce Kunene, Esther Skosana, Evelyn Moloada, Siphwiwe Mkhize, Siphwiwe Molha, Dorris Xaba, Daphne Jyanti, Constance Thango, Mirriam Miringa, Joyce Sylvia Mnisi, Kabapheli Eutha Skosana, Sweetie Christina Barobane.

We have written a letter that we will send to PWRDF tomorrow. They will forward it on to Etwatwa. (Read letter.) Please do sign the letter before you leave.

**Host:** In our closing prayers, we will pray responsively between the Readers and the rest of us—the voices of Etwatwa and ourselves. Let us pray to our loving God:

**Readers 1-3:** Give us the courage to confront this pandemic,

**All others:** **not just to be concerned but to be compassionate enough to take action.**

**Readers 1-3:** Give us the energy for challenge—to be able to speak out on behalf of the vulnerable and the dying, and all those who have no voice.

**All others:** **May we reject silence and prejudice in favour of justice and dignity.**

**Readers 1-3:** May our compassion identify us with you, God with us, so that we see those living with HIV and AIDS as you see them:

**All others:** **that we offer them gentleness and love, that we offer them the promise of prayer and of your hope.**

**Readers 1-3:** May we work together around the world as one family, one nation in the spirit of togetherness and understanding.

**All others:** **May we be directed by your power and not our own, that we may be made whole in you.**

—Mothers Union prayer

**Host:** Women of Etwatwa, as we light each candle of Advent we will remember you and those we love who are living and dying with AIDS, for we have seen the coming Christ in you.

**Host:** In the darkness you bring us light.

**Readers 1-3:** In the morning you bring us your hope.

**All others:** **In the evening you bring us rest.**

**Host:** In our fears you bring us your peace.

**Readers 1-3:** In our doubts you bring us faith.

**All others:** **In our pain you bring us your cross.**

**Host:** In our arms you bring us love.

**Readers 1-3:** In our weakness you bring us your strength.

**All others:** **In our bitterness you bring us tenderness.**

**Host:** In our anger you bring us your mercy.

**Readers 1-3:** In our grief you bring us comfort.

**All others:** **In our death you bring us your resurrection.**

**All:** **In our comings and goings you are always here. Amen.**

—Mothers Union prayer

**Host:** Go in peace to love and serve the God of hosts, by loving and serving one another.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

*Please sign the thank you letter before you leave. Thank you for coming.*



PARTNERSHIP FOR **LIFE**  
**PWRDF**

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