



**WORLD AIDS DAY – December 1, 2006**

**Keep the Promise – Chapel of the Holy Apostle - The Anglican Church of Canada**  
*Ecumenical Prayer Cycle ~ Liberia, Sierra Leone + Anglican Prayer Cycle – World AIDS Day*

Gathering Music

One – U2

Welcome and Greeting

The Most Rev. Andrew Hutchinson, Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise  
***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

A righteous Branch shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.  
***Come, Emmanuel, come.***

My people will be saved and they will live in safety.  
***Come, Emmanuel, come. Fulfill your promise.***

*adapted from Jeremiah 33:14-16*

Hymn

Come, thou Long-Expected Jesus, cp88, tune cp 374 (Hyfrdol)

Come, Thou long expected Jesus born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

*Person brings in a basket of empty pill bottles.*

Lament

Reader One (*lifting up an empty pill bottle*):

God of hope,  
when are the days coming  
in which everyone living with HIV  
will have access to the treatment, care and support they need to live a productive life?

Reader Two (*lifting up an empty pill bottle*):

When are the days coming in which no newborn will enter the world already infected  
because the mother couldn't get the anti-retroviral drugs,  
which prevent transmission of HIV from mother to fetus?

Reader Three (*lifting up an empty pill bottle*):

When are the days coming in which children don't have to watch their father die because there was  
no nurse to administer his medication?

Reader One: When will governments keep the promise?

Reader Two: When will leaders keep the promise?

Reader Three: When will I keep the promise of loving my neighbor as I love myself?

Reader One: When will you keep your promise, God, for justice and righteousness?

*(The basket of pill bottles is dumped unto the altar table.)*

**Sung Response**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. (cp89 vs. 1)**

Reader Two:

Do you hear the lonely, mourning in exile,  
the cries of a young girl who will never know her  
father's hand,  
the plea of a teenager forced to raise his sisters and  
brothers,  
the desperation of a grandmother with 10  
grandchildren to feed  
for whom there is only loss, only grief, only empty promises?



Reader One: When will drug companies keep the promise?

Reader Two: When will doctors and nurses keep the promise?

Reader Three: When will donors keep the promise?

Reader One: When will you keep your promises, God, that your people will be saved?

*(The reader picks up a couple of pill bottles and hurls them angrily in a safe direction.)*

**Sung Response**

**O come, thou dayspring, from on high  
And cheer us by your drawing night;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
and death's dark shadow put to flight (cp89 vs. 6)**

Reader Three: Can you see the dark shadows of death,  
those daughters selling themselves to buy food,  
those worrying about what will happen to their children,  
those weeping in the night waiting for redemption?

Reader One: When will the church leaders keep the promise?

Reader Two: When will churches keep the promise?

Reader Three: When will I keep the promise?

Reader One: When will you keep your promises, God, that your people will live in safety?

*(The reader sweeps some of the pill bottles from the altar table unto the floor.)*

**Sung Response**

**O come, O rod of Jesse's stem  
From every foe deliver them.  
That trust your might power to save  
and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel! (cp89 vs. 4)**

**Old Testament Reading:** Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

**Sung Psalm 13** (by Brian Doerksen, Karen Mitchensen and Daphne Rademaker)

How long O Lord / Will You forget me  
How long O Lord / Will You look the other way  
How long O Lord / Must I bear pain in my soul  
And ev'ry day / Have such sorrow in my heart

Look on me and answer / God my Creator  
Bring light to my darkness / Before they see me fall

But I trust in Your unfailing love /  
Yes my heart will rejoice  
Still I sing of Your unfailing love / You have been good  
You will be good to me



**Epistle Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Read by Rev'd Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**Sung Alleluia (Alleluia 7, Taize Community)**

Alleluia 7

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia!

Music: J. Berthier  
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**Gospel Reading:** Luke 21:25-36

Read by the Rt. Rev. D. Ralph Spence

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

**Hymn** Wait For The Lord (Taize / cp 94, with Cantor Parts)

Wait for the Lord  
Whose day is near  
Wait for the Lord  
Be strong take heart.

*(During the singing the empty pill bottles are passed throughout the congregation with everyone taking one of them.)*

**Confession and Forgiveness** The Most Rev. Andrew Hutchinson

**Call to Confession**

“People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world,” says Jesus. But instead of standing up, raising our heads and pointing toward the redemption that is drawing near, we often let fear overtake us, and succumb to the worries of this life. We fail to notice the nearness of God’s realm and let our hearts get weighed down. We become empty of the spirit of God, empty of God’s word.

With an empty pill box, we keep silence, letting God speak to whatever emptiness, whatever fear, whatever sin holds on to us.

**Silence**

**Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God,  
*we confess to you that we are trapped by sin and cannot free ourselves.  
We have failed to abound in love for one another.  
We have failed to abound in love for those living with HIV or AIDS.  
We have failed to keep our promises to you.  
Forgive us and free us to be alert to your will.  
Fill us with your Spirit,  
so that our world can see that your redemption draws near  
through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Sung Response (Taize)**

O Lord hear our prayer - O Lord hear our prayer  
When we call, answer us  
O Lord hear our prayer -O Lord hear our prayer  
Come and Listen to us

**Words of Forgiveness**

God’s promise is not empty.  
God reaches towards the longing heart with redemption.  
From of old we proclaim that Christ Jesus came to save sinners.  
In him we are given new life,  
filled up, overflowing, free.  
Heaven and earth will pass away, but his words will not pass away. We have his promise.  
God will lead us to life everlasting. Amen.

**Passing the Peace**



Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed, spoken together)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen



Prayers of Intercession (?)

As a people of the promise of God, we pray for our world and for all in any need:

Righteous God,  
do not let those who trust in you be put to shame,  
even if they are wondering and worrying if they are HIV positive or not,  
even if they are afraid to face the truth,  
even if they want to hide from their HIV status.

Do not let them be put to shame  
who are gathering the courage to speak the truth,  
who are struggling with their anger and fear,  
who are finding their way back to you.

Comfort those who mourn,  
uphold the weak  
bring healing to those for whom medicine will not become available,  
and wholeness to those whose have pills to keep viruses and bacteria at bay.  
Do not let any of your people be put to shame.

Lord Jesus, you came so that we might have life and have it more abundantly.  
We need your countless mercies for peace.  
Without food on the table and money to send the kids to school or pay the medical bills,  
peace flies through the window.  
HIV, AIDS and all manner of illness and unemployment can destroy our peace as well.  
When justice is perverted and corruption enriches a few at the expense of the masses,  
peace slips through the fingers of those who govern.  
We pray therefore, dear Lord, that you endow all in positions of trust, power and authority  
with wisdom that comes from you  
to the end that the manner  
in which they govern family, community, institution and state  
will make us experience your peace and grace.  
Then the whole nation will hear you say to them, "I am the Lord that giveth peace."

*PWRDF Partners are named here  
Other prayer are spoken aloud or in the silences of our hearts.*

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## PWRDF and Partners Working in the Area of HIV and AIDS

### **Africa**

- Kenya
  - *Crisis Pregnancy Ministries*
  - *Springs Ministries*
  - *Christian Community Services: Mount Kenya East*
  - *Christian Community Services: Mount Kenya Region*
- Uganda
  - *The Planning, Development and Rehabilitation (PDR), Church of Uganda*
  - *The Bukoto Family Life Education program, Diocese of Kampala, Church of Uganda*
- Tanzania
  - *HIV/AIDS Prevention Among Tanzanian Youth*
  - *Diocese of Southern Highlands*
  - *Diocese of Masasi*
  - *Diocese of Ruaha*
- South Africa
  - *Soweto Home-Based Caregivers Co-operative*
  - *The John Wesley Community Centre*
  - *Point of Light in Etwatwa*
  - *Temba House: HIV/AIDS Hospice*
- Burundi
  - *The Messenger Project*
- Mozambique
  - *SALAMA*
  - *Associacao Nivenyee*



### **Latin America and the Caribbean**

- Brazil
  - *KOINONIA*
- El Salvador
  - *ADES: CoCoSI*
- Guatemala
  - *The Ecumenical Forum for Peace and Reconciliation (FEPAZ)*

### **Asia Pacific**

- Bangladesh
  - *Jagorani Chakra*
- Hong Kong
  - *St. John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre*

### **Canada**

- *2-Spirited People of the First Nations*
-

Hymn

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin, my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Chorus

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my words to them. Whom shall I send?

Chorus

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will send the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide, 'Til their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Chorus

Sending Forth

God of abundance,  
God of life  
In your righteousness you make us part of  
your promise.

In your justice you call us to witness that your day of redemption is near.  
As we fill these pill boxes with gifts (or whatever people are asked to do)  
make us signs of love coming near to those who need medicine,  
to those for whom pills would be a deliverance,  
deliverance to work on a job,  
deliverance to dream of a future,  
deliverance to bring up ones children,  
deliverance to embrace, to kiss, to touch,  
deliverance to love, deliverance to live.

We pray in the name of our redeemer, Jesus Christ, Amen.



Benediction

**Hymn** O Come, O Come Emmanuel (sung this time as a hymn.) (cp 89)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who orders all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O rod of Jesse's stem  
From every foe deliver them.  
That trust your might power to save  
and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, thou dayspring, from on high  
And cheer us by your drawing night;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
and death's dark shadow put to flight  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you,  
O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of humankind;  
O Bid our bitter conflicts cease,  
And be for us our Prince of Peace.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you,  
O Israel!



## Some ideas for continuing the use of the pill box during Advent.

One option would be to send the pill boxes home with the people in your service to be returned later in Advent or on Christmas with an Advent/Christmas offering inside for an AIDS-related project.

Instead of an offering, the pill boxes might be returned with prayers for those living with or affected by HIV and AIDS. However, **BIG CAUTION**, it must be very clear that no one should be named in these prayers without their express consent. Everyone has the right to tell their story with HIV in their own time and at their own choosing.

The pill boxes that are sent home might be decorated and later brought back to become part of the Christmas decorations for the church, or put on the Christmas tree. These might be put in place with prayers for people living with HIV.

The pill box could be put alongside the Advent wreath or Advent candles in the home and serve as a centre for prayer during Advent.

Each pill box could represent a certain amount collected for a project connected with HIV and AIDS, and as this amount is received the pill boxes are put in a shape of a Christmas tree. When the Christmas tree is formed the goal has been reached.

For Advent 2 the theme might be connected to preparing the way of the Lord, in a time of AIDS. What practical things might each local congregation be doing to receive the coming Christ? Who are already encouraging us to go into the desert and do God's will?

For Advent 3 we might ask what John the Baptist would tell us we need to do in a time of AIDS to bear the fruits of repentance. So often persons with HIV are berated that they need to repent for supposed past sins. But would John the Baptist also have messages for drug companies, for government and church leaders, for those of us, who are ordinary Christians trying to live faithful lives? There could be an offering of post cards to those in positions of authority, or letters to newspapers which bring John the Baptist's voice to those who do not follow through on the promises made.

For Advent 4 with the greeting of Mary and Elizabeth, both of whom are pregnant, it would be a good time to wrestle with ways that local churches could assist HIV-positive mothers from transmitting the virus to their yet to be born children. Scientists have found the way to block transmission. But we have not found the means nor the will to keep these children from having the virus from the moment of their first cry.



## Many thanks go to:

### **The Wine Before Breakfast Band:**

Violin - William Gekas, Theology Student at Wycliffe

Voice and Percussion - Chelsy Stevens, MDiv Student at Wycliffe

Guitar and Piano - Dexter Hinkson, Director of Family Ministries, St. John Anglican Chinese Congregation and MDiv Student

Guitar and Piano and Singing - Rob Shearer, PWRDF Youth Initiative Staff

### **Church House friends**

Flute, Singing - Mariana Bell

Singing - Glen Spurrell

Singing - Brenda Enns

## Photographs Used:

**Photo 1:** Piello and Tabu who both live with AIDS, receive support at Soweto Home-Based Caregivers Co-operative (South Africa).

**Photo 2:** The staff at *2-Spirited People of the First Nations* (Toronto).

**Photo 3:** Bishop Rodney Andrews, who rode a tracker across Saskatoon and raised \$50,000 for AIDS.

**Photo 4:** Some children being raised in a brothel and receiving an education through PWRDF partner *Jagorani Chakra* (Bangladesh).

**Photo 5:** A woman weak with AIDS, is being cared for at *Temba House: HIV/AIDS Hospice* (South Africa).

**Photo 6:** *CoCoSI* (El Salvador) youth marching in a vigil.

**Photo 7:** One 6x6" square from the Ribbon of Hope: the PWRDF AIDS quilt.

**Photo 8:** <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/images/TB/Pill%20bottles.jpg>

**Photo 9:** Women living with AIDS making the Hearts for Life pins at *Point of Light in Etwatwa* (South Africa).

