



Litany for World AIDS Day 2009

Every year, World AIDS Day (December 1) is given a special theme to focus on. “Universal Access and Human Rights” is the theme for 2009. You are encouraged to adapt the following World AIDS Day litany to fit the theme that will be used at your church or in your community. While this litany was written for use in World AIDS Day services and events, it may be adapted for use at any time throughout the year.

- One:** Compassionate God, we pray on this World AIDS Day with gratitude for your love that affirms the dignity and worth of each and every person. We give thanks that you empower and encourage us in the struggle to stop HIV.
- Many:** **Bless us with the courage and wisdom to ensure universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support for all those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS in our country and throughout the world.**
- One:** We pray for the millions of children who are so profoundly affected by this disease; the millions of children who are HIV positive, the orphans, and all those who are vulnerable and at risk.
- Many:** **May the example of Jesus’ care and concern for children inspire our deepest conviction and strongest commitments to children. Help us to ensure the treatment and care which is vital to their health and wholeness.**
- One:** We pray for women; for HIV positive mothers who are constantly seeking accurate information and treatment in order to prevent the spread of HIV; women who experience the injustices of inequality that reduce or deny them control over their own bodies; women who suffer from violence and abuse; all those who are vulnerable and at risk.
- Many:** **O God, grant them the courage they need. Help us to provide support and solidarity; strengthen our resolve, increase the capacity of our HIV prevention efforts, and guide our actions to work with others to address injustices and vigorously advance gender equality.**
- One:** We remember that *all of us* are created in your image. In the words of the Psalmist, we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (139:14). Yet, in many places throughout the world, the human rights of HIV-positive people—the right to health, non-discrimination and equality—are not protected people.
- Many:** **May the vision of your beloved community stimulate our engagement and deepen our commitment to strengthen human rights so that economic status no longer determines access to health care; barriers are removed to comprehensive HIV**

(continued on back)

prevention, treatment, care and support; and discrimination and inequality based on gender, gender identity or sexual orientation are eliminated.

One: We pray for all those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS—our families, friends, partners, caregivers and each one of us. We pray especially for the millions of people who have died in the course of this pandemic, and the families and loved ones they have left behind.

[People may offer prayers and remembrances for family, friends and others.]

One: Hear our prayers, O God. On this day World AIDS Day and everyday send your healing Spirit, heal the broken places, restore your people and give us your peace. Bestow your wisdom and courage on every setting of your church, on every religious community, on *all* the people, leaders and nations of the world.

All: **We acknowledge we are *all* affected by HIV and AIDS. We look to you, O God, our way out of no way, trusting that you have provided all we need to achieve your mission; to live the promise to stop HIV. Through Jesus, our Savior, we pray. Amen.**

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