



## A Litany for World AIDS Day — 2006

**Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise!**

**W**orld AIDS Day (December 1) is given a special theme each year, with some themes lasting more than a year. “Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise” was the theme for 2005 and that theme will continue for 2006 with a stronger emphasis on accountability. 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.

### **A Litany for World AIDS Day — 2006**

**LEADER:** Gracious God, we celebrate your love for us all, and give thanks that You listen to us when we pray to You. Send your Spirit upon us now and lift us up. Encourage and strengthen us. Instill in us your wisdom, and increase our faith. Hear us, O God, as we pray on this World AIDS Day:

**PEOPLE:** **Help us stop AIDS and keep the promise.**

**LEADER:** Hear us, O God, on this World AIDS Day as we pray for all those who are living with HIV and AIDS, and for all those affected: family members, friends and lovers, all of us. We rejoice that many now receive life-saving medication, and give thanks for medical advances, creative advocacy and generosity that have made this possible. But so many have already died, so many continue to suffer, so many are cut off from vital information and medication. Help us to work for universal access to treatment and to support research toward a cure. For the sake of all who suffer:

**PEOPLE:** **Help us stop AIDS and keep the promise.**

**LEADER:** Hear us, O God, on this World AIDS Day as we pray for the millions of children who have lost parents, and for the millions of children who are themselves living with HIV or AIDS. Empower us to help change conditions that put them at risk: poverty, war, lack of education, and inadequate health care. For the sake of the children:

**PEOPLE:** **Help us stop AIDS and keep the promise.**

**LEADER:** Hear us, O God, on this World AIDS Day as we pray for women, celebrating the many gifts they bring to the front lines of response to this pandemic. as caregivers, educators, entrepreneurs and activists. But we know too, many women are vulnerable millions around the world at risk for infection. Show us how to protect, empower and heal all women and girls, in our own communities and throughout the world. For the sake of our sisters:

**PEOPLE: Help us stop AIDS and keep the promise.**

**LEADER:** Hear us, O God, on this World AIDS Day as we pray for all those affected by or living with HIV or AIDS here, in the United States. Help us increase our capacity for effective response in communities which are disproportionately affected by HIV and AIDS.

**PEOPLE: Help us stop AIDS and keep the promise.**

**LEADER:** Hear us, O God, on this World AIDS Day and help us to eliminate AIDS-related stigma and discrimination. Help us break through silences that block effective response: let us teach all who are vulnerable about the means to prevent infection, let us encourage the frightened to know their HIV status, let us encourage all who are at risk to seek treatment. In the power of your love, which casts out fear:

**PEOPLE: Help us stop AIDS and keep the promise.**

**LEADER:** Hear us, O God, on this World AIDS Day and help us to nurture in ourselves and in our community faithful stewardship of your good gift of sexuality. Help us to reclaim this powerful gift, teach us to use and enjoy this blessing so that your sons and daughters may grow in the values of love, self esteem, and sexual health, and your communities may grow in mutual responsibility, justice, and inclusivity.

**PEOPLE: O God, embolden us with your Spirit, so that we can stop AIDS and keep the promise. Grant that your church may be a healing presence in the face of HIV and AIDS. Show us your vision and guide us to the words and actions that will make a difference. On this World AIDS Day, we raise our prayers to You, placing our trust in You for compassion, healing and courage in the struggle to stop AIDS, to keep the promise. Hear us and answer us according to the richness of your mercies. Amen.**

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Litany prepared by Mike Schuenemeyer, Executive and Minister for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns and HIV/AIDS Ministries.



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