


Organizer:

 St. John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre
聖約翰座堂「愛之家」諮詢及服務中心



World AIDS Day

世界愛滋日



1 December 2013

**ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL HIV EDUCATION CENTRE
RESOURCES FOR WORLD AIDS DAY 1ST DECEMBER 2013
OR ADVENT SUNDAY
THEME: "GETTING TO ZERO"**

World AIDS day is celebrated every year on 1 December. It is an opportunity for individuals and groups all over the world to come together to remember, and demonstrate worldwide support to people living with and people affected by HIV and AIDS. It is the one day in the year where issues surrounding HIV and AIDS can take centre stage.

The following resources have been compiled by St. John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre to be used in the context of Morning or Evening Prayer or the Eucharist Worship within parish groups or school assemblies. We hope that you will be able to use them as an aid to worship and an educational tool for your people.

RESOURCES FOR YOUR PEW BULLETIN

The global theme for World AIDS Day from 2011-2015, as selected by the World AIDS Campaign, is "Getting to Zero." Backed by the United Nations, the "Getting to Zero" campaign focuses on the goals of zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS related deaths.

ANYONE CAN HAVE AIDS

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is an incurable but preventable disease. It is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which is transmitted through sexual relations with an infected person, transfusions of infected blood, use of contaminated needles and syringes, and from infected mother to child through pregnancy, childbirth, and breastfeeding. HIV damages the body's defensive system by disabling certain white blood cells that fight infection. All people are at risk from HIV and AIDS and all people can make a contribution to reducing that risk.

NOT EVERYONE WITH AIDS IS DYING

Although more than 25 million people have died since AIDS was first recognized in 1981, it is not necessarily a death sentence for those who live in the industrialized world. By and large, they have access to life-prolonging antiretroviral (ARV) drugs, as well as clean water, proper nutrition and functioning health care systems. People in the Global South do not have such access.

更多資訊 For more information:

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COLLECT FOR ADVENT SUNDAY

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Isaiah 40: 1 – 11

Psalms 121

Romans 13: 11 – 14

Matthew 24: 36 – 44

A REFLECTION ON ISAIAH 40: 1 -11

These words were first addressed to the Israelites in Babylonian exile. There they were ostracized and discriminated against as aliens. It seemed as if their God had abandoned them, or was much weaker than the Babylonian gods with their imposing temples. How wonderful, how utterly unbelievable then to hear the prophet, God's spokesperson, cry out exultingly: "Comfort, O Comfort my people ..." Their God had not abandoned them; their God was not impotent; God would intervene decisively on their behalf to lead them back home.

How fitting are these words for World AIDS Day – when we think of the many millions living with HIV and AIDS who have been similarly stigmatized and discriminated against like those exiles of God. Take heart. God has not abandoned you. God intervenes on your behalf. God loves you. You are precious to God who reminds governments to "Keep the Promise" of universal access to treatment, and to outlaw discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS. Wonderful God, be praised.

Thank you, God, that we are all precious in your sight. Bless all seeking a vaccine and all who care for the sick, filling them with hope. Comfort them all for Jesus' sake. Amen.

A REFLECTION ON MATTHEW 24: 36 – 44

"Keep Awake" and "Keep Watch" are critical life and leadership skills.

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Jesus did not wish his hearers to have sleepless nights but to develop life and leadership skills that effectively grasp and handle life's assignments – skills that build accountability for progress and impact, any time that it is demanded by the One who gave the assignments.

Life in our world is replete with unexpected circumstances and twists. These include our inability to know exactly when, how, and by whom we may be called to account for the promises we have made to others -- at an individual, family, local community, national or global level. The Master Teacher used this "Divine Visitation" story to caution us against providing "Correct answers to wrong questions." In the context of HIV and AIDS, this is not easy. It requires watching, listening, praying and doing things that address the root causes of vulnerability, injustice, selfishness and deprivation.

HOMILY

AIDS has been used as an excuse to preach about morality and the right way of living, and at the same time to boost the self-righteousness of the so-called 'moral' majority. In the meantime, of course, church-related mission hospitals, schools and community health programmes were often engaged, patiently and quietly, in caring for people living with HIV and AIDS and supporting them in their struggle for proper care and basic human dignity. Nevertheless, it is not surprising that so many opt for silence and denial, rather than risk the avalanche of social stigmatization and rejection they have seen others forced to endure. And in the light of the suffering caused and the social catastrophe that is unfolding before our eyes, we can only wonder what 'the real sin' is.

Not only has AIDS robbed people of their family members, loved ones and friends, AIDS has robbed the churches of their collective memory of the compassionate Jesus, the messiah of the marginalized, the prophet most at home among the people pushed to the periphery.

For the churches, the most powerful contribution we can make to combating HIV transmission is the eradication of stigma and discrimination.

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According to UNAIDS (the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS), at the end of 2012 an estimated 35.3 million people were globally living with HIV; in 2012 there were 2.3 million new HIV infections and 1.6 million people died of AIDS-related illnesses. In Hong Kong, according to data released by the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health, the cumulative total of HIV infections reached 6045 by the second quarter of 2013. The record high number of cases has shown that AIDS is still a major public health concern to Hong Kong.

IT IS TIME TO TAKE THE LEAD

THE RED RIBBON

The Red Ribbon is the international symbol of AIDS awareness, a symbol of respect for HIV positive people and people living with AIDS, and a reminder to us all of the constant need to keep up with the fight against AIDS.

The Red Ribbon is ...

- ♦ “red” like love, as a symbol of passion and tolerance towards those affected.
- ♦ “red” like blood, representing the pain caused by the many people that have died of AIDS.
- ♦ “red” like the anger about the helplessness with which we are facing a disease for which there is still no chance for a cure.
- ♦ “red” as a sign of warning not to carelessly ignore one of the biggest problems of our time.

Wearing the Red Ribbon is your first step in the fight against AIDS.

TAKE THE LEAD NOW

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS:

God our loving Father, your son Jesus chose to be vulnerable in order to understand and identify himself with us. We are wounded in many ways and we implore you to heal us and make us healers with you, to help heal our broken world.

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All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Thank you God, for this time of Advent, when we remember the incarnation of your Son, Jesus Christ. As we think of the coming of the child Jesus, we pray for babies, boys and girls who are living with HIV. We remember the millions of children orphaned by AIDS, who are too often left to look after their own brothers and sisters, their own education and their own homes.

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the leaders of the nations and for all faith leaders. Give them courage and strength to take a lead in working to prevent the further spread of HIV and to care for those affected.

(Especially we pray for)

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for young people, in their vitality and idealism. Bless them with good friends to help them accept themselves in all their vulnerability and challenge them with high ideals.

(Especially we pray for)

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick and in pain, especially those affected by HIV/AIDS; may they experience your love through each one of us; may they find meaning and purpose in their lives and inspire others who suffer.

(Especially we pray for)

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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(Especially we pray for)

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who work for development and justice; may they not be discouraged as they struggle to create a healthier world.

(Especially we pray for)

All: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, we thank you that you have made all of us in your own image and likeness. Help us to be sensitive to one another and to build healthy and caring communities in your world. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUGGESTED HYMNS

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus
2. Hail to the Lord's Anointed
3. Sleepers awake
4. When I needed a neighbour
5. Here I am Lord

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6. Love divine, all loves excelling

7. O come, O come, Emmanuel

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

1. Archbishop Desmond Tutu

2. Revd . Canon Dr. Gideon Byamugisha

3. TEAM: Towards Effective Anglican Mission (www.team2007.org)

4. A Prayer Book for Australia Copyright 1995. The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Christ Church Anglican Cathedral Diocese of Newcastle World AIDS Day Service 2001

5. Christian Aid

6. UNAIDS (www.unaids.org)

7. "Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance "Keep the Promise" Advent calendar, www.e-alliance.ch "

8. "Building HIV Competent Churches: Called to Prophecy, Reconcile and Heal", Dr. Erlinda N. Senturias & Dr. Liza B. Lamis

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