

L. As we enter our Advent season of waiting in hope for the birth of your son, let us remember those across the world who wait in hope for a cure and a sense of belonging to a caring community. We ask this in Christ, through your Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Closing Song**      *We Live in Hope*  
A Hymn for World AIDS Day

We live in hope, for God is always present,  
despite the hurt and pain we've suffered long.  
We live in faith, that God will not abandon  
the precious child to whom we all belong.  
We live in love, with grace and peace enduring.  
As God renews, our spirits are made strong.

Do not lose heart, for God so loved the world  
that life and hope are touched with healing grace.  
God reconciles, restores, redeems the broken  
and reunites our hearts in love's embrace.  
O God of Hope, our prayers we lift to you.  
O spread your love on all within this place.

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**World AIDS Day**  
**December 1, 2021**

**END INEQUALITIES**

**END AIDS**

## **END INEQUALITIES, END AIDS**

### **Introduction**

### **Opening Song** *WHO WILL SPEAK?* Marty Haugen

Who will speak\* if we/you don't?  
Who will speak\* if we/you don't?  
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?  
Oh, who speak\* if we/you don't?

\*Alternates: work, care.

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### **Lighting of the AIDS Candle**

*In memory of all who have died from HIV/AIDS, an estimated 40 million since 1981. About 37 million people are living with HIV. In South Africa, the AIDS candle was typically lit at any HIV/AIDS Event.*

### **Let us pray**

God of justice and compassion, be with us as we acknowledge our oneness with our brothers and sisters everywhere, especially those living with HIV/AIDS. Sharpen our awareness and disturb our hearts when we recognize how racism and HIV/AIDS are so integrally linked. Touch our compassion so that we may be compelled to act with justice and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our brother. Amen

**Reading** I Corinthians 12:14 – 25 *"The body has many parts."*

### **Something to Ponder**

It is documented that ways in which national and global efforts to understand, prevent, treat and find a cure for HIV/AIDS has been persistently affected by racism. Information about HIV/AIDS is more readily accessible in white communities than in communities of color; that treatment is less available to persons of color with HIV than white males. It requires serious denial to avoid the conclusion that racism and AIDS are intimately related.

Joseph R. Brandt

### **Silent Reflection**

How can we increase and respectfully support efforts to confront and eliminate situations of inequality at every opportunity?

### **Response for World AIDS Day**

L. God, open our eyes to the systems around us that oppress, hold down and disadvantage the most vulnerable in our society.

**R. So that we may increase and abound in love for one another and for all people.**

L. God, open our ears to the myths, stereotypes and lies that keep these systems going. **R.**

L. God, open our mouths to challenging conversations about race, sex, and differences. **R.**

L. God, open our hearts to the understanding that we are all affected by HIV/AIDS **R.**

*Created by United Church of Christ for World's AIDS Day*

### **Together, we pray...**

A. God of Promise, we are mindful of our sisters and brothers suffering with HIV and AIDS. We ask your healing presence on the millions of people living with the disease.

B. Make of us a safe haven for those who are abandoned, discriminated against and rejected on account of their illness.

All: Inspire us to speak out for just distribution of health care and medical aid and for generosity in sharing our resources with those struggling under the weight of this epidemic.