

# Deliver the Truth: Lead the Way to Effective HIV Prevention



December 1, 2008  
Foundry United Methodist Church

Sponsored by: Advocates for Youth; American Jewish World Service; Black AIDS Institute; Catholics for Choice; Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE); Foundry United Methodist AIDS Mission; General Board of Church & Society, United Methodist Church; International Women's Health Coalition; National Council of Jewish Women; Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice; Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS); Union for Reform Judaism; Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations; United Church of Christ (Justice and Witness Ministries); Women of Reform Judaism; The Women's Collective

World AIDS Day  
December 1, 2008

## Order of Worship

Opening Music – All Souls Jubilee Singers

### Welcome

\***Invitation to Worship** (bold type for congregation)

Someone is coming...

**We are waiting....**

Someone is coming to grant dignity to long-suffering bodies...

**We are waiting....**

Someone is coming to the breathless...

**We are waiting....**

Someone is coming to those who lack energy...

**We are waiting....**

Someone is coming to those who grow thinner day by day...

**We are waiting....**

Someone is coming to those who don't know if their hands will work tomorrow...

**We are waiting....**

Someone is coming to those who have neither mother nor father...

**We are waiting....**

Someone is coming to those who cannot get medicine...

**We are waiting....**

Someone is coming who cares and who puts their care into action...

**We are waiting....**

\* **Hymn** (Choir and Congregation)

**Our Confession: Deliver the Truth** – (Reverend Bill Sinkford)

**\* A Prayer of Confession**

**Left:** Holy and awesome God, we stand in your presence filled with regret for our many failings. Though there is greatness in us, and a deep longing for goodness, we have often denied our better selves and refused to hear your voice calling us to rise to the full height of our humanity.

**Right:** For there is weakness in us, as well as strength. At times we choose to walk in darkness, our vision obscured. We do not care to look within, and we are unwilling to look beyond at those who need our help.

**Left:** O God, we are too weak to walk unaided. Be with us as a strong and wise friend, and teach us to walk by the light of your truth.

**Right:** We confess our indifference to those who suffer. Even when we recognize their pain and suffering, we do little to motivate our churches to make bold responses. We feel the stigma of standing up for this portion of the world's outcasts. Our behavior is intolerable, and we ask for forgiveness. We are diminished by each thought or action that stigmatizes another. You call us to be examples of love and compassion, and we want to be faithful.

**All:** Help us, Creator, to make room in our hearts and lives for you. Forgive us, revive us, and reshape us in your image. Amen.

**Religious Reading and Story** - (Salma Abudigieri)

**Choral Anthem:** All Souls Jubilee Singers

**Our Calling: Listen to God's Voice** – (Rabbi David Saperstein)

**A Call to Listen: (Responsive Reading)**

Cries for help haunt us, O God, and we know we cannot remain silent. We want to act, but sometimes feel paralyzed and helpless. We want to be compassionate but sometimes become caught up in our everyday living and simply forget. We want to accept those with HIV and AIDS, but too often fall prey to fear and anxiety.

**Response:** Help us to listen.

Men, women and children are dying daily as we sit in the comfort of our homes and offices. We pray for boldness and courage to move us from our complacency to doing at least one thing to make a difference. Let us be your servants, Creator God. Call us to faithfulness.

**Response:** Help us to listen.

**Our Commitment: Lead the Way** – (Rev. Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson)

**A Call to Leadership: (Responsive Reading)**

Injustice surrounds us like a blanket on a cold day. It's so close to us, we can touch it. It's in our homes; it's in our churches; it's in our neighborhoods; it permeates our world. We see AIDS infected women who have no rights because they are held captive to unjust cultural practices. We hear of orphans, abandoned by parents, who walk aimlessly about as innocent victims. And we witness doctors leaving their AIDS-infected countries out of fear and exhaustion. Cries of mercy resound in abundance.

**Response:** Help us to lead.

Help us to be persistent, O God, in ways that bring justice so all your children can live in peace and wholeness. Help us be outspoken by challenging those systems that keep people oppressed. May we be unrelenting advocates for healing and relief and call our governments to put in place policies that bring life rather than destroying it. And, may we be empowered to hear your call for action and choose to follow with all the strength we can muster – for your sake, Holy One, and for your creation.

**Response:** So be it. We will lead with conviction. We will lead knowing that God is our partner who will not leave us but who walks by our side and is forever present in all we do to bring healing to the sick and relief to the captive. Hear our commitment and move us to action for all your people and creation.

#### **Instructions for Vigil and “Offering” of petition**

##### **Benediction**

##### **\*Closing Hymn**

\*Stand as you are able

#### **Vigil**

**All present are invited to share personal stories as a visible witness to those who struggle with the AIDS virus and those who pledge to take action.**