



## **WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICE OF LIGHT**

Wednesday, December 1 – 6:30 PM



### **A CELEBRATION OF HOPE**

#### **WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

## SERVING TONIGHT

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Ministers	Ian Boden Patrick Preacher
Organist	Jim Parham
Candle Lighting Participants	Jose Giacamea Van Matthews Angie McCormack Christy Strouse
Cantor	Amanda Cook
Ushers	Kay Cook Bob Thompson
Greeters	Penny Bostain Anne Harmon Calvin Harmon Deirdre Hixson David Potts Donna Potts Melanie Wessinger Donice Winslow
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Greg Alley

## WELCOME

Jose Giocamea

We gather this evening to remember the people we have lost to HIV/AIDS over the years, give thanks for the progress we have made, and commit ourselves anew to ensuring that no one is left behind in the fight to end this epidemic.

Much has been achieved since AIDS was first identified over four decades ago. Global infection rates have begun to decline, fewer babies are being born with HIV, and millions of people are now on life-saving anti-retroviral medicines.

Guided and strengthened by hope, there is yet work to be done. More than 1.1 million Americans are currently living with HIV and many more are at risk of HIV infection.

While new HIV diagnoses have declined significantly from their peak, progress on further reducing them has stalled with an estimated 38,000 Americans being newly diagnosed each year. Without intervention nearly 400,000 more Americans will be newly diagnosed over 10 years despite the availability of tools to prevent transmissions.

There is a real risk of an HIV resurgence due to several factors, including trends in injection and other drug use; HIV-related stigma; homophobia and transphobia; lack of access to HIV prevention, testing, and treatment; and a lack of awareness that HIV remains a significant public health threat.

This evening we stand together to commit ourselves to continue working towards an end to this epidemic. We remember the beautiful lives lost over the years. We honor and celebrate all those who continue to work daily in HIV/AIDS patient care and advocacy, especially we lift up the work of Doctor David Potts and Doctor Donna Potts as they retire from this vital and important work.

*Please stand as able*

Tonight we reaffirm our choice to make a difference.

**If we choose to act, we can bring newness, hope, and peace.**

Newness, hope, and peace in our homes, in our church, in our community, in our nation, in our world...

**In our bodies, our minds, our spirits**

Our siblings, our family, our children, our friends are living with HIV.

**Therefore we all live with HIV.**

We work to remove the barriers to healing. We will undo ignorance and stigmas.

We will fight for equal access.

**We will show compassion and we will respond.**

We will respond with our time, our energy, our resources, our love.

**We will pray and act until the day the epidemic is no more.**

And we trust that God will make a way for us all to be healed, blessed, reconciled and redeemed.

**Thanks be to God.**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive  
Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the son of God appear.**

*Refrain*

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.***

**O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things  
far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain***

**O come, O come O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
Sinai's height in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain***

**O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's  
tyranny; from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain***

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Most loving God, our Promised One:

Comfort your people who live with HIV. Spread over us all your beautiful quilt of mercy, love, peace, and healing. Open our eyes so that we may see you in all of creation. Make our love a mirror of your love for those who live in fear, who live under stress, who suffer rejection, who live with HIV. O Comforting God, grant rest to those who have died with HIV. Bring hope to those who live. Help us to find a cure. Strengthen and honor those working on the front lines of this epidemic. Guide us in building a world in which no one dies alone and where everyone lives accepted, wanted, cherished, and loved. We pray in all the beautiful names we call you, our one God.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## CANDLE LIGHTING

Light is one of our world's greatest gifts. Our Bible tells us that light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. Tonight, our gathering here for this purpose brings more light into this world. We shine a light on HIV, and we see the progress that has been made. We shine a light on HIV, and we see the faces of ones we love. We shine a light on HIV, and we see treatments and options so that no one has to die from this disease. As we light these four candles tonight, we give forth light so that the world might see our love, peace, mercy, and hope shining brightly.

### *First Candle*

God of love,

As we are reminded of the HIV epidemic that has devastated so many lives across our world, we know that we must preserve and keep the light on HIV. As we do this, we are reminded that you are a God of love and of healing. Fill our world with a love so strong that it overcomes bias, injustice, ignorance, and stigmatization so that all might have access to life saving treatments and we might one day soon find a cure.

**Amen.**

### *Second Candle*

God of Peace,

We remember the millions of lives we have lost over the last decades to AIDS-related conditions. We especially remember those who have died in our midst – our mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, lovers, friends, colleagues, and neighbors. May they find eternal peace in you, now free of sickness and pain.

**Amen.**

### *Third Candle*

God of Mercy,

How much longer must we live with this epidemic? Grant us mercy. Bring a cure to your world. As we light this candle, we pray for a merciful cure to this disease. Until that day comes, shine a light upon all the progress that has been made. Light the way for your children so they may access life-saving treatments and preventative medications. Have mercy on those who have been left out. Break down the barriers of injustice and ignorance which have for now far too long kept equal and equitable access to treatments out of the hands of those who need them most.

**Amen.**

### *Fourth Candle*

God of Hope,

We light our final candle to celebrate the hope filling each of our hearts. Tonight, we have so much hope. As we look around this sanctuary, we see hope in the faces of those who continue to work daily against this epidemic. We see doctors who care for our loved ones, advocates who organize us to continue moving forward, and loved ones who fight alongside those living with HIV. We give thanks tonight for the hope these people bring us and pray you strengthen us with the unending hope of your grace, love, and peace.

**Amen.**

READINGS

Selected verses from Song of Songs

A reading from the Song of Songs.

Here comes my lover, running down the mountains like a gazelle, leaping the hills like a stag in search of his mate. Look at him, standing out there staring in through the window lattices like the moon. He is calling me: "Come, my love, my dear one, come out! Winter is over, the rains are gone, the flowers are blooming. It's time for singing; let's walk out through the valleys and listen to the song of the dove. The fig trees are setting fruit; and the air is full of the smell of grape blossoms. Arise and come, my love. Come away with me. Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

A reading from John.

John 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>The Word was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

A reading from Matthew.

Matthew 18:10-14

<sup>10</sup> "See to it that you never despise one of these little ones, for I swear that their angels in heaven are continually in the presence of my Abba God. <sup>11</sup> "The Promised One has come to save what was lost." <sup>12</sup> "What do you think? Suppose a shepherd has a hundred sheep and one of them strays away—won't the shepherd leave the ninety-nine on the hillside and go in search of the one who needs help? <sup>13</sup> If the shepherd finds it, the truth is, there is more joy over the one found than over the ninety-nine that didn't stray. <sup>14</sup> In the same way, it is never the will of your Abba God in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

A Place at the Table

Piano

For ev - 'ry-one born, a  
 For wom - an and man, a  
 For gay and for straight, a

place at the ta - ble, for ev - 'ry - one born, clean  
 place at the ta - ble, re - vis - ing ing roles, de -  
 place at the ta - ble, a co - ve - nant shared, a

wa - ter and bread, a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow -  
 cid - ing the share, with wis - dome and grace, di - vid - ing the po -  
 wel - com - ing space, a rain - bow of race and gen - der and co -

- ing, for ev - 'ry - one born, a star o - ver - head.  
 - wer, for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair.  
 - lor, for gay and for straight, the chal - ice of grace.

And God will de - light when we are cre - a -

- tors of jus - tice and joy, yes, God will de -

light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,

jus - tice and joy!

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Most Holy God,

We thank you that by the life-giving power of your spirit you bestowed upon us, your people, such gifts as are needed to respond to the situation at hand. Pour on us all that we need to stop AIDS and reach out to everyone affected with compassion, healing and hope. May we know your call to be leaders in this struggle and employ the courage, wisdom and resources you have given to respond to HIV and AIDS. Lord we call out to you,  
**Hear our prayer.**

God of Strength,

We give you thanks, that you have raised-up leaders throughout the ages - reluctant leaders, courageous leaders, surprising leaders, humble leaders, servant leaders— bestowing on each one gifts for service. Raise-up among us such leaders today who will create universal access to medical treatment and health care, effective education and prevention programs, advocacy for strong and just public policy, and the funds and other resources needed to stop AIDS. May we know your call to be leaders in this struggle and employ the courage, wisdom and resources you have given to respond to HIV and AIDS. Lord we call out to you,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of infinite love,

We thank you for those who have poured their hearts and souls into this life-saving work. We thank you for their compassion, their perseverance, and the many gifts they have shared with your children. Tonight especially we thank you for Dr. Donna Potts and Dr. David Potts. As we celebrate their retirement, fill them with your joy. May they know the lasting difference their work has made in the lives of so many. Grant them many more years together on this earth to enjoy and celebrate life and love, for it is life and love they have given to so many. Lord we call out to you,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of Miracles,

We continue to pray tonight for a miracle. Bring an end to HIV/AIDS in our world. We have suffered and fought long enough. The end of AIDS is in sight. Until then, give us the courage to run the race set before us. We pray for a day when all will have access to education and information. We pray for a day when all people can get affordable and good quality treatment. We pray for a day when all are affirmed, included, and give care and support. Continue to surprise us with your healing and strengthen us to surprise you with our efforts and our love for one another. Lord we call out to you,

**Hear our prayer.**

Hear the prayers of your beloved children.

**Amen.**



**Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to  
see all people's dignity. Light dawns on a  
weary world: the promised day of justice comes.**

*Refrain*

***The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.***

**Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find  
bread and children's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain***

**Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once  
forlorn, find wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in a  
weary world: the promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain***

#### SENDING

Let us pray.

God of unity, bind us together with strong ties of love, that our world will be a place where everyone can find acceptance. May our churches provide a welcome for all affected by HIV and AIDS. May our communities strengthen and support the places where care is given and received for those living with HIV and AIDS. Raise up voices so that stories are told. Open our hearts so those stories might be heard. Guide us, O God, to a place where fear is overcome by love; to the place where you are to be found.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

Go out into the world to live as a vessel filled with love and service for all people.  
The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord's face shine on you, and be gracious to you;  
the Lord's face turn towards you and give you peace.  
May the blessing of God our Comforter,  
Holy Parent, Child, and Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*This Little Light of Mine*

#677

**This little light of mine. I'm goin'a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
let it shine, let is shine, let it shine.**

**Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
let it shine, let is shine, let it shine.**

**Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
let it shine, let is shine, let it shine.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*  
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*All are invited to gather  
on the front lawn for coffee,  
hot chocolate, and Christmas cookies  
following the service.*

## CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell  
Senior Pastor

James C. Parham, III  
Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Ian E. Boden  
Vicar/Pastoral Intern

Amy R. Brown, Deacon  
Director of  
Educational Ministries

Mandi T. Whitley, Deacon  
Director of Youth  
and Children's Ministries

Kay M. Cook  
Office Manager

Henry W. Wilcox  
Accountant and  
Digital Media Manager

Karen M. Craig  
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook  
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald  
Nursery Attendant

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## CHURCH COUNCIL

Donna Potts  
Vice-President

Richard Moose  
Treasurer

Wynne Boliek

Tom DiAntonio

Heather Fanning

Debbie Farstad

Valerie Hollinger

Melissa Kolb

Heather Kleckley  
Secretary

Campbell Balck  
Youth

Ryan Koon

Angie McCormack

Terry Morgan

Merry Mulcahy

Joe Rice

Franklin Sease