

## LITURGY AIDS CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SUNDAY 21 MAY 2017

### i) **Worship preparation**

**Play appropriate music or silence can be kept**

**A banner with a red ribbon is brought in and placed in front of the congregation. The Bible is also brought in and placed on the pulpit.**





### ii) **Call to Worship**

Today we join fellow Christians all over the world as we come to remember those who have died of AIDS-related diseases, those who have AIDS and those of us who are living with HIV. Today we also remember those who are working to stop the AIDS epidemic; those who are caregivers; those who mourn and those who are working against stigma and discrimination.

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

It was created in early 1991 as a global symbol in response to AIDS. A symbol for solidarity and tolerance with those who are often discriminated against by the public because of their HIV positive status.

The Red Ribbon is...

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

### **Let us pray:**

God who comes alongside us and lives within us, we thank you for the privilege of being together at this time and in this place. We pray that your love will unite us into a community of grace and discovery. Please cleanse from us anything that would sap our strength for togetherness. Free us from negative imaginations and the barriers that sometimes keep us apart. In this time refresh in us the dream of a better world and put before us new possibilities for service.

Amen

### iii) **Hymn**

### iv) **Remembrance (Aids Memorial Candle)**

God our Father, we thank You that You have made each one of us in Your own image and given us gifts and talents with which to serve You and one another. We thank You for those whose lives we have shared and whom we remember today. We thank You for the good we have experienced in them and for the blessing they have been to us.

We confess to you, Lord, that indifference in the guise of ignorance has diverted our eyes from the people and loved ones living with HIV and AIDS. Forgive us and show us new pathways where information and knowledge transform us.




We lift up the people who have died of AIDS-related illnesses; those who were abandoned by their relatives, hurt, unsure, and struggling. May those who still suffer be treated well, feel loved and valued by us as a church. We lift up the people who live in fear, not daring to give their names, afraid that at any moment someone will discover their secret. Do not let their enemies exult over them; do not let those who wait for you be put to shame.

Amen

#### **Light the HIV/AIDS memorial candle**

- v) **Recite Creed/expressing of faith**
- vi) **Hymn**
- vii) **Offertory (consider donating offering to a local organisation focusing on HIV and AIDS)**
- viii) **SERVICE OF THE WORD (For guidelines on specific scriptures, please visit <http://www.cabsa.org.za/bible-message-search> )**
- ix) **Commitment (Extract from DRC Western Cape and URCSA Cape Region AIDS Declaration)**

We wish to show love and compassion towards all people living with the realities of HIV and we wish to do that by:

-  offering counselling and support to all who experience pain and heartache, especially those rejected or abandoned by the church and the broader society;
-  eliminating myths, discourse, negative attitudes and discrimination within our congregations and communities;
-  transforming congregations into safe-havens where all are welcomed and at liberty to exercise and express their Christianity without fear of being judged.

- x) **Hymn**
- xi) **Benediction**

Encircle us, O God. Keep love within, hatred out.  
Encircle us, O God. Keep joy within, despair out.  
Encircle us, O God. Keep peace within, disharmony out.

Encircle us, O God. Keep hopes within, discouragement out.  
Your presence is in us. Your presence is around us. Your presence is love.  
Your presence is in us. Your presence is around us. Your presence is joy.  
Your presence is in us. Your presence is around us. Your presence is peace.  
Your presence is in us. Your presence is around us. Your presence is hope.  
Encircle us, O God, and may we go out in peace.

**Amen**

Developed by Ds Sean Esterhuizen,  
Diakonia, on behalf of the AIDS Taskgroup,  
Western and Southern Cape Synods of the  
DR Church Family

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