

**A Liturgy for Day of Prayer for People with AIDS
And Other Life-Threatening Illnesses
November 10, 2013
Ministry Teams Staff**

*The hymns are taken from Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs (HPSS), The
Worshiping Church: A Hymnal (WC) and Worship and Service Hymnal (WSH). The numbers are
as they are found in these hymnals.*

*Scripture is from the New Revised Standard Version, Copyright © 1989, by the
Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States
of America.*

Call to Worship

Leader: The steadfast love of God never ceases,
with mercies that are new every morning.

People: Great is your faithfulness, O God, the source of all hope.

Leader: You are good to those who wait upon you and whose souls seek you.

People: You came when we called upon you and said, “Do not fear!”

Leader: The steadfast love of God never ceases,
with mercies that are new every morning.

People: Let our worship be pleasing in your sight.

Based on Lamentations 3

Hymn of Praise

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

(HPSS-381, WC-552, WSH-381)

Call to Confession

The words of the prophet Isaiah call us to confession of sin: “Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.”
Let us confess our sins against God and others.

Prayer of Confession

God of holiness and wholeness, we call to you from an awareness of our unworthiness in your sight. Sometimes that is revealed in our attitudes toward others, particularly those who are suffering from AIDS and other life-threatening diseases. We tend to turn the other way, or to “blame the victim,” or to forget that part of our calling is to serve those in greatest need. When we are ill, we do not hesitate to call on you for help. But we may forget or even be hesitant to pray for others. Remind us that it is in our weakness that your strength is made known, and in our dependence on you that we find genuine freedom. Your son touched the untouchable, reached out to those forsaken by all others. Shape us, we pray, in his example for your glory. Amen.

Hymn of Confession *What A Friend We Have in Jesus* (HPSS-403, WC-622, WSH-397)

Assurance of Pardon

We act in unloving ways and yet God is willing to hear us when we turn from our unloveliness and ask for forgiveness. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven and offered love. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Time with the Children

Anthem

There is a Balm in Gilead

Prayer for Illumination

Hear our prayer now to illumine these scriptures and open them to our minds through the message in this time we have now to hear what you have us hear. Amen.

Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon

- Psalm 103
- Matthew 5:1-11
- Philippians 4:1-9

Prayers of the People

O God, who loves us more than we will ever know,
we come to you praising your name
and thanking you for the gift of your amazing love.
You give us more than we deserve or could ever hope to return
and yet here we are trying to say in our insufficient words "We love you."
God, we feel your love and presence with us
and yet we know that there are others who do not:
—those who are poor and homeless
—those who are suffering from illness and grief
—those who have not experienced an accepting community of believers
because of their lifestyle or attitudes
—those who are hurting so much that they cannot open up
Help those who do not feel your love to open themselves up to your love
so that they too might experience true joy and acceptance.
Give us the grace to seek out those who need our love
so they might see your love through us.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

There are those in our communities that need our help. Let us give our tithes and offerings so their needs may be met through the ministries of this congregation.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Creator God, we see your love in everything around us.

We have received so much from you
and our hearts are grateful for your abundance.

We come now to you with our hearts, our arms, our whole selves
open and willing to be living sacrifices to you, O God.

We present ourselves.

Take us, mold us, use us in new and creative ways in the world
that your love and abundance may be spread throughout this world. Amen.

Hymn of Commitment *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* (HPSS-384, WC-531, WSH-323)

Benediction

May we show God's love through our selfless giving.

May we show Christ's love by accepting the unlovely.

May we show the Holy Spirit's love by giving comfort to those who need us.

May we receive love from this community that surrounds us. Amen.