



World AIDS Day 2020

HEALING OF OUR EVERY ILL

Introduction

This year's Prayer is in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic, another Coronavirus. Research for HIV/AIDS has given a start for the treatment and search for a vaccine for COVID-19.

Opening Song: Healer of Every Ill Marty Haugen #960*

Lighting of the AIDS candle

In memory of all who have died from HIV/AIDS and COVID-19.



Let us Pray

God of compassion, comfort those who live with HIV and those infected with COVID-19. Spread over us all your quilt of mercy, love and peace. Open our eyes to your presence in all those infected and affected by these illnesses. Open our ears to your truth echoing in their hearts. May your love, and our love for those who suffer overcome their fear, their stress, their sense of rejection. We ask this in Christ, through your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Gospel Matthew 17:14 – 21 Healing of a Boy with a Demon

Reflection

- As the Father of the boy asked "Lord, have pity on my son." Who are the people we bring before God today?
- Disciples approached Jesus saying "Why could we not drive out the demon?" What more can we (I) do to help bring healing to those who suffer from HIV/AIDS or COVID-19 or any other disease?
- How strong is our faith and will as a community of faith to work for cure and healing and programs such as the *President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief* (PEPFAR) or the Global Fund for AIDS Relief, in outreach for Africa?

Petitions

L. We bring our intentions before our Healer of all illness.

Our response R. Heal us, O God *(sung response)*

That the God of justice and love will bless us with a world where all people have equal opportunity to grow, develop, flourish, work and enjoy healthy and fulfilling lives, supported by laws, policies, programs, healthcare plans and providers, protecting their rights to health and well-being, we pray

R. Heal us, O God

That all who are suffering with HIV/AIDS, Coronavirus or any illness will feel the loving, healing presence of Jesus. That they have faith to be open to that love from the Healer of all ills, we pray

R. Heal us, Oh God

That family members of those with chronic illnesses will follow the Spirit as they are called to care and support their loved one and be given strength, patience and understanding to lovingly carry out the tasks needed, we pray

R. Heal us, Oh God

For those with HIV/AIDS in Africa unable to receive necessary medications due to shortage in public hospitals, especially expectant mothers who need medications to stop transmission to their unborn child, we pray

R. Heal us, Oh God

For all researchers who tirelessly work to discover vaccines and treatments for HIV/ AIDS and COVID-19, that their hands and skilled minds are guided by the wisdom and strength of the Spirit, we pray

R. Heal us, Oh God

For all who work with people afflicted with HIV/AIDS, COVID-19 and other chronic diseases, health care professionals, para-professionals, domestic staff, missionaries, social workers and counselors. May they feel the strength and presence of Jesus, the Healer as they carry out their duties of comfort and care, we pray

R. Heal us, Oh God

L. Let us Pray

Side 1: Loving God, we lift up all those suffering from HIV/AIDS or COVID-19.

Side 2: Bring your healing and restoration to their bodies, minds and spirits.

Side 1: Help us to do our part in loving care and support for your people who suffer and those caring for them.

Side 2: Lead us to do whatever it will take to eradicate these illnesses from the lives of those touched by the viruses.

All: We offer this prayer, O Compassionate God, trusting in you and the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen

(Adapted from prayer by National African American Catholic HIV/AIDS Task Force)

L. **Beloved, let us love one another**, because love is of God, everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.
I John 4: 7 – 8

Closing Song: **A Place at the Table** Lori True #812*

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The Kopanang Tapestries: *The Universe Canticale*

The tapestries of “The Universe Canticale” are 31 embroidered panels created by women living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Sister Sheila Flynn, OP, inspiration for Kopanang Community Trust near Johannesburg, South Africa, describes them: “The works are testament of hope by women who made them. They are the visual story of evolution, along with our carbon footprint. Creating this body of works supported the women in maintaining their lives with courage. The beauty created by their hands in turn feeds their children and keeps their spirits alive both personally and within the community group that supports each member and walks the walk regarding the ongoing impact of HIV/AIDS.”

For information regarding availability of showing the Tapestries in the United States, contact Karla Hostetler, Director of Mariposa Museum & World Culture Center, at karla@mariposamuseum.org.
<http://www.mariposamuseum.org>

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Tapestry by Women of Kopanang Community Trust, South Africa



*The Kopanang Tapestries are displayed in
the IHM Motherhouse Gallery
from Nov. 19, 2020 until Jan. 10, 2021.*