Praying Positively

A CAFOD service for World Aids Day

Service starts with a meditation/gathering hymn.

La Tenebre – Taize

Sing - La tenebre n'est point tenebre devant toi: 
La nuit comme le jour est lumiere.

Opening Hymn - The Lord is my Light (Taize)

Sing - The Lord is my light
   My light and Salvation
   In God I trust
   In God I trust

Opening Blessing

We pray to the Trinity to bless us throughout this service.
With the blessing of the Father in whose image we are created,
With the blessing of the Son, who enters fully into the here and now, into all the joys and the sorrows of this world,
With the blessing of the Holy Spirit who renews and sustains us in all that we do.
We ask their blessing as we make the sign of the cross together.

All: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Prayer Christ our light,
   Your love burns in our hearts
   And builds in us a thirst for justice.

   Jesus, light of the world,
   You taught us how to reach out to others,
   Open our ears
   To the stories that beg to be heard.

   You who are light and warmth,
   Banish the darkness
   And bring us hope.

   Jesus, light of life,
   Enfold us all with your love
   And incline our hearts
   To the leading of your healing spirit.

   Amen.
Penitential Rite

Cloth Ritual (tearing): Team

Tearing:
A white cloth has holes torn into it whilst one of the following words is shouted out.

Violence, fear, separation, humiliation, abandonment, silence, weeping, death, injustice, hate, ignorance, prejudice, labelling, marginalised, judgement, complacency, isolation, pain, indifference, bereavement.

The white cloth is now displayed in tatters.

Kumbaya, my Lord, Kumbaya (3)
O Lord Kumbaya.

Someone’s crying Lord, Kumbaya (3)
O Lord Kumbaya.

Someone’s crying Lord.
They are crying for their lost ones
They are crying because they are uncertain about the future and what it holds
Someone’s crying Lord,
weep with them.

Someone’s dying Lord, Kumbaya (3)
O Lord Kumbaya.

Someone is dying Lord, right now.
Someone is dying an undignified death due to the lack of drugs and care available
Someone is dying Lord,
be with them.

Someone’s Praying Lord, Kumbaya (3)
O Lord Kumbaya.

Someone is praying Lord,
Someone is praying for a world which is not subjected to the sufferings of AIDS
Someone is praying Lord,
Listen to their prayer.

Kumbaya, my Lord, Kumbaya (3)
O Lord Kumbaya.

Weaving:
Whilst Because of Your Love is sung different colour ribbons are sewn into the cloth.

Hymn - Because of Your Love (Maltriscans)

Prayer of Hope

How can we hope in life and future when facts and forecasts point to death?
We hope because of the courage and strength of countless women, men and children with HIV who reject the death sentence conferred by science, politics or neighbours and witness instead to life lived to the full, who celebrate victories while knowing all too well the pains of loss, injustice, death and judgement.

We hope because of the selfless outpouring of family and friends who give all they have and more to bring support and love, despite hostility from those ignorant of their truth and those ready to throw the first stone.

We hope because of the energy and commitment of today’s prophets who challenge injustice and inequality and denounce the greed that deprives, impoverishes and controls.

We hope because of the commitment of those who pursue the truths of science and work to make them real for all, not just for the few whose purse buys access, nor for the others whose bank accounts grow fat from profits.

We hope because of our belief in the One who overcame death with life, banished darkness with light, brought hope out of despair.

Yes Lord, we hope because we believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.


Honouring

All are invited to light a candle as a symbol for prayer for those who are infected or affected with HIV and AIDS. And, as a sign of your commitment, to take an AIDS ribbon to wear as your sign of solidarity with those infected or affected by HIV and AIDS.

Hymn - Resucito (Songs of the Spirit)

Resucito, resucito, resucito, aleluia, aleluia, aleluia, resucito.

La muerte, donde esta la muerte?
Donde esta mi muerte?
Donde su Victoria?

Alegria, alegría hermanos;
Que si hoy nos queremos,
Es porque resucito.

Si con El morimos,
Con El vivimos,
Con El cantamos;
Aleluia

He is risen! Alleluia

Death, where is death?  
Where is my death?  
Where is its victory?

Rejoice, brothers,  
For if today we love each other,  
It is because he is risen.

If we die with him,  
We live with him.  
We sing with him,  
Alleluia!

Intercessory Prayers

As we offer these candles in prayer we now pray to God to intercede on our behalf.

We pray for the Church throughout the world that she may be a living example of a loving community, and a voice for those who are hungry for justice.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
We pray for the world’s leaders, that they may work to overcome the barriers between peoples
And foster a spirit of global community.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own local community here
We pray for those who feel excluded from our local community, through poverty, disability or illness.
We pray for people affected by HIV and AIDS,
and especially for those excluded from our communities through discrimination and prejudice.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**Closing Prayer**

God of hope we ask you
To clothe us in compassion
And enfold us in your love.

Send us out with the joy of Christ
To feed the hungry with good things.

Send us out in the peace of Christ
To prepare a banquet for all peoples.

For you will lift the pall of death
And banish our sorrow.
You will wipe away our tears
And we will dance with joy.

Send us out
There will be no more mourning
Send us out
There will be no more pain.

God of hope, we hear you
God of life, we will answer your call.

**Hymn -**  
**Will you come and follow me** (Iona)

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Liturgy: Helen Gough, Kieran O’Brien
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.