

# World AIDS Day



Believe Out Loud and Cathedral of Hope  
World AIDS Day Service of Remembrance  
December 1, 2021

## Opening Music

David Moldenhauer, piano  
Cathedral of Hope Strings  
*"Threads of Love"*  
by Lorie Line

## Call to Gather

One: We remember those who have gone before us and conquered their battle with HIV/AIDS. In the words of the Apostle Paul: "well done, good and faithful servant."

All: We gather to remember.

One: God of all creation, your faithful and steadfast love brings us together and opens the door to new possibilities.

All: We gather in praise.

One: We come together expecting to be surrounded by your presence and awed by your promise of life and abundance.

All: We gather in joy.

One: When we are faced with impossible odds, when suffering and death are all around us, you lift us up and create a way where there is no way.

All: We gather in hope.

One: When we are confounded by ignorance and consumed with fear, you give us courage and the confidence we need to move forward.

All: We gather in love.

One: In the face of our differences and divisiveness, you challenge and surprise us with reconciliation.

All: We gather in peace.

One: When our souls feel empty, you come and fill us to overflowing.

All: We gather in the power of the Spirit.

One: God, who comes alongside and lives within, we thank you for the privilege of being together. We pray that your love will unite us into a community of grace and discovery. We pray for your presence with us as we uplift those who are living with HIV/AIDS. We remember those who have died.

Inspire and empower us that we may respond with compassion and in solidarity with all who continue in the struggle. Help us, with you, to bring an end to HIV and all that enables its spread far and near.

Renew in us your compassion so that we may be a people with loving purposes. We come together to be your alleluia in a troubled world. Hear our prayer, O Merciful One.

**A Reading of “FOR MY OWN PROTECTION”  
by Essex Hemphill (from the book “Ceremonies”) with Myles Hunter, Dancer**

**Call to Witness**

One: Source of all, we bear witness to the centuries of suffering black people have endured. Suffering that includes marginalization and discrimination of LGBTQIA persons of color, those living with HIV and AIDS and the dramatic levels of violence experienced especially by transgender women of color. Because we believe in God who has many names, who created the world in all its diversity and color, HIV positive and negative alike

All: we reject all forms of discrimination and stigma.

One: If your neighbor works a dangerous job, it is vital that that neighbor has access to nurses and doctors. Globally, sex workers are 21 times more likely to acquire HIV than the general adult population. We stand with sex workers. We won't leave anyone behind in our efforts to create an AIDS-free future. We praise God for health screenings and workshops on sex positivity. We thank you for culturally competent, and compassionate healthcare for LGBTQIA people and we ask you to multiply this good news. Progress on

LGBTQIA rights is fundamental to ending AIDS.

All: We honor the health and dignity of all people.

One: Creator, we ask you to eliminate systemic health care disparities rooted in racial, gender and sexual orientation discrimination. We thank you that you have made all of us in your own image and likeness. Help us to be sensitive to one another and to build healthy and caring communities in your world. God, in your mercy, we pray for all those who work for development and justice; may they not be discouraged as they struggle to create a healthier world.

All: hear our prayer.

One: We pray for the leaders of the nations and for all faith leaders. Give them the courage and strength to take a lead in working to prevent the further spread of HIV and to care for those affected. We are wounded in many ways, and we implore you to heal us and make us healers with you, to help heal our broken world. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer

### **Music Interlude I**

Cantus and Sweet Honey in the Rock  
*"Would You Harbor Me?"*  
by Ysaye Barnwell

### **Hebrew Lesson**

*Isaiah 61:1-3*

The Spirit of God is upon me, because the Most High has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. God has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of our God's favor; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Most High, to display the glory of God.

### **Message**

Pastor Darryl Brown Jr.  
Founding Senior Pastor, Kingdom Builders Christian Center, Omaha, Nebraska

### **Music Interlude II**

Lesbian and Gay Big Apple Corps Symphonic Band  
*"Echoes of Memories"*  
by Wataru Hokoyama  
Music Director: Henco Espag  
Performed: April 8th 2017 at Symphony Space  
Audio engineer: David Merrill  
Video Editor: Leslie Regina Becker

## Act of Remembrances

*based on a Jewish Prayer*

One: We remember all who have lived and died with HIV and AIDS, those we know and love, and those who are strangers to us.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

All: We remember them.

One: In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,

All: We remember them.

One: In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,

All: We remember them.

One: In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,

All: We remember them.

One: In the beginning of the year and when it ends,

All: We remember them.

One: When we are weary and in need of strength,

All: We remember them.

One: When we are lost and sick at heart,

All: We remember them.

One: When we have joys, we yearn to share,

All: We remember them.

One: So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us,

All: We remember them.

**A Reading of "WHEN MY BROTHER FELL (For Joseph Beam)"**  
**by Essex Hemphill (from the book "Ceremonies")**  
recited by Bishop Joseph Tolton and Pastor Darryl Brown Jr.

## A Jewish Prayer for World AIDS Day

*Rabbi Denise L. Eger, D.D.*  
*Senior Founding Rabbi, Kol Ami, West Hollywood, California*

## Call to Action & Offering

*Reverend Doctor Neil G. Thomas  
Senior Minister, Cathedral of Hope, Dallas, Texas*

### Offertory Music

Turtle Creek Chorale  
*"Good Night, Dear Heart"*  
Words by Robert Richardson and Mark Twain  
Music by Dan Forrest

## Affirmation

A Daily Affirmation by Jim Mitulski,  
POZ Online Magazine, February 2001

I am grateful today to be alive.

Let me live each moment of this day attentively, consciously and intentionally, with an open mind and an open heart.

This day let my hopes for healing of mind, body and spirit become visible in my life. I am grateful for my body, for each breath I draw, for the blood in my veins, for the cells of which I am composed.

May I treasure this body with every act of eating, breathing, sleeping, feeling, lovemaking, exercising, and with every pill I ingest.

I am grateful for the people I know and have known, friends and lovers living and dead, those I love and see, and those I love and no longer see; for love that is stronger than death and for love that never ends.

Each day help me to connect with the diversity of human creation, young and old, positive and negative, every race, gender and orientation.

Keep me passionate and engaged in creating a world of justice, free from prejudice and poverty, where everyone is valued, loved and free.

May my awareness of mortality inspire me to live abundantly, here and now.

May I live in expectation of a cure for HIV in my lifetime.

Let my life be a prayer, my dreams a reality.

### Closing Music

*"Blessed Be the Tie"*  
Cathedral of Hope Orchestra

# Acknowledgements

**Pastor Darryl Brown Jr. (he/him)**

Founding/Senior Pastor of Kingdom Builders Christian Center  
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**Reverend Jess Chancey (they/them)**

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Co-Chair, United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries Board of Directors  
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