

The following service was held at Columbia Theological Seminary, at the opening of the HIV/AIDS Seminary Consultation.

THE GLOBAL FACE OF HIV/AIDS:  
PRESBYTERIAN AIDS NETWORK (PAN) SEMINARY CONSULTATION  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2008

Preacher: Rev. DR. DONALD MESSER  
Liturgists: ANDREW BLACK, HOWARD DOTSON, KATE HOLBROOK  
EMILY MARTIN KEITH RIDDLE, & VANESSA SHARP  
Music: The CTS CHOIR, DIRECTED BY DAVID HAWKINS  
Greeters: NANCY TROY & BOB SCHMINKEY

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOMING & OPENING PRAYER**—HOWARD DOTSON, PAN

**\*OPENING HYMN PH #322**      *“Spirit of the Living God”*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**—VANESSA SHARP, PAN

One:            God of the Exodus, God of the Empty tomb.  
Many:        **We open our hearts and minds to the impossible.**  
One:            With you all things are possible.  
Many:        **We look to see where Your reign is breaking in here and now.**  
One:            We embrace the hope of this new day.  
Many:        **May Your Living Word move us to love and serve the least among us.**

**\*HYMN PH #350**—*“Fill My Cup”*

**LITANY OF CONFESSION:** ANDREW BLACK, PAN

One:            Last night 8,000 people died because of AIDS.  
Many:        **Forgive us for our complacency.**

One:            Last night 6,171 children were orphaned because of AIDS.  
Many:        **Forgive us for our apathy.**

One:            Every 7 seconds someone new is infected with HIV/AIDS. Over 40  
million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS.  
Many:        **Forgive us for not having the time to raise awareness.**

One:            Everyday people with AIDS starve to death--too poor to afford food and  
too sick to work.  
Many:        **Forgive us for turning our backs on your children.**

One:            As global citizens, many of our governments’ policies think only of the  
bottom line, we lose sight of your children living with HIV/AIDS by  
supporting these policies.  
Many:        **Let us not be partners of greed, but of Good will.**

**One:** As leaders of faith, we fail your children with HIV/AIDS.  
**Many:** **Forgive us for being too busy to visit those who are sick.**

**One:** As leaders of faith, we fail your children with HIV/AIDS.  
**Many:** **Forgive us when we preach words of harm, rather than words of love.**

**One:** As leaders of faith, we fail your children with HIV/AIDS.  
**Many:** **Forgive us when we put those with HIV/AIDS on the back of our agenda in worship, meetings, and assemblies.**

**One:** As leaders of faith, we fail your children with HIV/AIDS.  
**Many:** **Forgive us for failing to speak out against injustice. Help us break the conspiracy of silence around HIV/AIDS.**

**One:** As leaders of faith, we fail your children with HIV/AIDS.  
**Many:** **Forgive us for losing the faithful imagination and prophetic vision needed to see a world without HIV/AIDS, oppression and injustice.**

**One:** We stereotype your children with HIV/AIDS, we shun them, we hurt them and we disregard them.  
**Many:** **Help us to see with the eyes of our heart, God. Help us to welcome those who are suffering into our Churches, our communities, our homes and into our hearts.**

**One:** AIDS has devastated your children; millions are dying, millions are orphaned, millions are sick. Yet, we do nothing and keep “those” people at arms length.  
**Many:** **Dear God in Heaven Help Us.**

**One:** We are far from powerless in this fight against HIV/AIDS. With hearts full of love and souls full of grace, we can make a difference.  
**Many:** **Dear God in Heaven, help us to stand in solidarity with those suffering and have the courage to help those in need.**

*(Silence for reflection)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON—ANDREW BLACK, PAN**

**One:** Let us be comforted in the sure faith through Jesus Christ that God indeed forgives us when we repent and tells us to go and sin no more. Let us be reassured by the words of Augustine when he stated that love “has the hands to help others. Love has the feet to hasten the poor and needy. It has the eyes to see misery and want. Love has the ears to hear sighs and sorrows.” That, my friends is love.

**\*HYMN PH #394—“Balm in Gilead” (VERSE 1 Only)**

**SCRIPTURE READING:** EMILY MARTIN, PAN *Matthew 9:35-10:2*

**SERMON:** Rev. DR. DONALD MESSER *“The Global AIDS Crisis: The Harvest is Plentiful, but the Laborers are Few”*

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Go Light Your World* (SUNG BY THE CTS CHOIR)

**Ritual of Memory and Hope:** KATE HOLBROOK, PAN

**PRAYER--Prayer of St. Francis:** KEITH RIDDLE, PAN (*PRAYED IN UNISON*)

*Holy God, make me an instrument of Your peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.  
Loving God,  
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.  
Amen.*

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION:** KATE HOLBROOK, PAN

As we go, remember: We were born into this world  
And the goodness of God is intended for all of us;  
By the grace of the Spirit, we can find community with each other,  
Even in this very hour; And, by the love of God,  
Revealed in the face of Jesus, We are being called.

**\* Please rise in body or spirit. PH denotes the blue Presbyterian Hymnal.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*A Special Thanks to:* the Presbyterian AIDS Network (PAN), the Presbyterian Health Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA), Presbyterian Women, the Faculty, Staff, and Students of Columbia Theological Seminary, the Center for Lifelong Learning, the Campbell Scholars, Rev. Dr. Donald Messer, Mike Griffin, Erin Kobs, Rev. Livengood, the Committee on Theological Education (COTE) and the AIDS Memorial Quilt: The Names Project Foundation.

*The AIDS Ribbon*---the red AIDS ribbon is a renowned international symbol of HIV/AIDS awareness and the need for compassion, solidarity and justice for those who are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

### **Resources For Today's Worship**

*Call to Worship* written by Howard Dotson

*Call to Confession and Assurance of Pardon* written by Andrew Black

*HIV/AIDS Statistics* provided by UNAIDS and the Global AIDS Alliance, 2007.

*Go Light Your World* words and music by Chris Rice

*The Prayer of St. Francis* has been altered to include inclusive language