

## **World AIDS Day Litany by Rev. Tim Jessen**

*When Secretary of State John Kerry spoke at Indiana University on October 15, 2015, he shared his hope with the largely student group that that they would be the first AIDS-free generation. With that in mind, I wrote this Litany for World AIDS Day, 2015.*

**Leader:** We are gathered here today to remember, those that have suffered with HIV and AIDS, those that have cared for them, those that have grieved for them, those that have prayed and interceded for their healing and welfare:

**All: Lord, hear our prayers, and let our cries come unto Thee.**

**Leader:** We are gathered here to pray for those still suffering and nations still in pain,

**All: Touch and heal all who are suffering with HIV and AIDS, and grant that the day may come soon when it is banished from our earth.**

**Leader:** We are gathered here today to grieve: for lives cut short in the prime of life, for talents that are no longer able to be used and enjoyed, for families that still miss a loved family member and friend,

**All: Blessed are those who mourn; for they shall be comforted.**

**Leader:** We are gathered here to admit our complicity and guilt in not doing enough to fight and combat the devastation and heartbreak of the AIDS epidemic worldwide:

**All: Forgive our sin, cleanse us from our guilt, and focus our attention on what we can do now to bring health and healing to your world.**

**Leader:** WE are gathered here to say "No" to prejudice, discrimination, and all the evil that separates us from You:

**All: Change our hearts, minds, and spirits, that we may live lives that are well-pleasing and satisfying to You.**

**Leader:** We are here to say "Yes" to life and love, even in the midst of the overwhelming sense of evil, pain, and violence we see in our world:

**All: Make us instruments of your peace, in all we think, say, and do.**

**Leader:** We are here to pray a world without HIV and AIDS, that this may be the first generation to live free of its scourge, destruction, and death,

**All: Grant that all your children may live long, fruitful lives. And inherit abundant, everlasting life.**

**Leader:** Lastly, we are here to Celebrate: All the victories that have been won, all the lives that have been reclaimed and restored, all the scientific advancements that have brought us to this place, and all the efforts that have made us more tolerant and understanding of each other and all our brothers and sisters in the global community:

**All: We give thanks and rejoice, celebrating life, hope, and peace for all humankind! Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**