1. Opening Prayer:

Lord, we ask for your Light of the World to be with us. May this Light call us to remember all people whose lives have been touched by HIV and AIDS. May your Light be a symbol of hope for all who endure in body, mind and spirit because of HIV and AIDS. May your Light encourage and lead us to continue to work to end this crisis.

2. Scripture Reading:

Mark 10: 13-16 (Bring the Little Children to Me)

3. Scripture Reflection or Sermon

4. Light a Candle of Hope:

6000 Reasons to Act:

A large candle is placed in the front of the Church. It will be lit during the service to represent the igniting of new passion in responding to HIV and AIDS. It can also be the candle traditionally lit for the first Sunday in Advent.

We remember and pray for the 6,000 children worldwide who lose a parent to AIDS related illnesses every day.

Read out names and ages (no surnames) of orphaned children in South Africa. A list of children’s names can be obtained from World Vision. See contact details overleaf.

5. Affirmation of Faith

We believe in the God of Life who makes men and women in God’s image and likeness.

Created equal, all people deserve a full life with dignity regardless of age, sex, race, religion, sexual orientation or nationality.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God’s son, who walks by our side. Because Jesus shows us his great love and embraces us with it, we have the example to follow in love, embracing and supporting people living with HIV and AIDS.

We believe that the Church, in all its different expressions, must every day practice justice and compassion for all our sisters and brothers who are sick, poor, hungry, imprisoned or a stranger in a place not their own.

We believe that the Church, with its many gifts, has been called to make an impact on situations of oppression that continue in this world by standing together, struggling together, and offering comfort and accompaniment at the time they are most needed.

We believe that the Church, in its many expressions involving children, youth and adults, needs to play a stronger role in providing leadership in the response to HIV and AIDS.

Adapted from Worship Service for World AIDS Day 2007 www.e-alliance.ch/media/media-7071.doc

Today, like every day, 6,000 children will lose a parent to AIDS.
6. Petition Prayers

Let Us Pray

Lord we are thankful for our children,
Lord Hear Us. (Lord Graciously Hear Us)

Lord we are thankful for governments, Non-governmental Organisations and Faith Based organisations that take the lead and work for children’s wellbeing.
Lord Hear Us. (Lord Graciously Hear Us)

Lord we pray for a parenting church
Lord Hear Us. (Lord Graciously Hear Us)

Lord we pray for churches that are child-friendly in all of their departments
Lord Hear Us. (Lord Graciously Hear Us)

Lord we pray for leadership in providing the needs of people living with HIV and AIDS
Lord Hear Us. (Lord Graciously Hear Us)

Lord we pray for governments and other service providers to provide legal protection for us orphans and other vulnerable children
Lord Hear Us. (Lord Graciously Hear Us)

7. Community Prayer

People: Lord, you have no other body than ours,
You have no other hands than ours,
Your only feet belong to us
And ours are the eyes that with your compassion
look at the world.
Ours are the feet with which you walk around doing good.
Ours are the hands with which we now bless.

Lord, here are our bodies, our whole lives.
We want to be leaders whose bodies are extensions
of yours, so that the promise of abundant life
is a reality for our brothers and sisters
who live with or are affected by HIV and AIDS.
Amen.

Community Prayer adapted from a prayer attributed to Saint Theresa of Avila.

8. Prayer of Commitment

“Because of what we believe, we commit ourselves
to be part of the global response to HIV and AIDS, keeping
our promise to stop the hurt it causes, recognizing
our fragility and vulnerability, but also knowing that we
are instruments of light that comes from the One who
came to give life, life in its fullness.

We commit ourselves to promote the development of
sensitive, shared, informed and generous leadership,
capable of influencing faith communities and social
politics in our country and beyond our borders.

We commit ourselves to open ourselves and our
church, to provide welcoming places where people
living with HIV and their loved ones, can find love,
acceptance, understanding, a listening ear, support and
growth.

We commit ourselves, from this moment forward,
until God’s reign of health and life comes in its fullness.
Amen.”

9. Closing Prayer

God of life and health,
in Jesus Christ, you have drawn close to us.
During this time of expectant waiting
inspire within our hearts a militant hope
so we can walk along side people who live with HIV
and make visible the values of your kingdom,
the kingdom of your beloved son, our savior
and brother.
Amen.

10. Contact us:

For further information on World Vision 40hr Vigil and
World AIDS Day 2007

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Ecumenical Alliance
www.e-alliance.ch/media/media-7071.doc

World AIDS Campaign

Take the lead
Stop AIDS. Keep the promise.