

O loving God,
 Shepherd who meets us on the Way,
 and gathers us,
 and holds the weak close and protects them,
 we pray today again for those victims
 of an unequal world.

We pray for those condemned to poverty and disease
 because there is not the will to change the way things are,
 because the powerful have too much to protect.

We pray that out of the economic crisis that is
 shaking the economies of nations
 there may emerge a more just and equitable
 sharing of the world's resources,
 that mountains may be levelled and valleys raised
 and rough places made smooth.

We pray that exiles -
 exiles from justice,
 exiles from plenty,
 exiles from basic rights -
 may be set free.

And God, on this Sunday after World AIDS day
 We pray the World AIDS day prayer:

On this Advent Sunday
 we anticipate the bright festival of hope's rebirth,
 in a helpless baby long ago, in every child who comes
 into the world.

On this World AIDS Day
 we remember all whose lives are blighted by HIV and
 AIDS, and hold them lovingly in our thoughts, members
 with us and with Jesus in the human family.

We remember too those who tend the sick and the
 dying, those who search for new treatments and a cure...

O God, healer and comforter,
be with all who suffer and all who strive to end the
suffering.

May your Advent hope be made real to those who
struggle with sickness and despair.

And God, when the world's griefs make us weary,
help us still to care.

We ask this in the spirit of Jesus.

And God, the scourge of AIDS reminds us of
other diseases, preventable diseases,
which still kill millions.

O God reorder our priorities that we may invest
in life rather than death...

O loving God, as we gather here at your table
to receive from your generosity,
show us ways in which we may steward
your goodness to us,
show us the small steps we can take
to bless and enrich the lives of others,
especially those who are your special priority.

We pray in the name of Jesus,
our good Shepherd. Amen.