



Worship Service for December 1, 2023 World AIDS Day

Prelude Video

Chiming of the Hour Trey Broadhurst

Welcome Pastor Felix

Centering Moment Pastor Felix

Call to Worship Trey Broadhurst

LEADER: Tonight we remember together our family, friends, and loved ones who have lost their battle with HIV/AIDS.

ALL: We feel the pain of grief in each other's company.

LEADER: Tonight we remember together our family, friends, loved ones, and ourselves who are living with HIV/AIDS

ALL: We reach out to each other for the strength and comfort we share together.

LEADER: Tonight we deeply breathe in the presence of the Holy One and of each other, for we are one people and one human family.

ALL: We create this Holy Space together in love and in remembrance for the memory of our love ones.

***Song**

Congregation

“Break Our Hearts Again”

We pile up like dry bones, like orphans gathering
In burden, we're broken, our defenses fracturing

So break our hearts again
Stretch us 'til we bend.
Breathe new life on these tired bones
And make us new again

Our mountains are crumbling, like sand into the sea
Our rivers run drier than the rocks beneath our feet

So break our hearts again
Stretch us 'til we bend.
Breathe new life on these tired bones
And make us new again

We lay our armor down, We lay our armor down
We lay our armor down, We lay our armor down

Gathering Prayer

Congregation

ALL: God of Promise, today we are mindful of our siblings in the human family suffering with HIV and AIDS. We ask your healing presence on millions of people living with the disease today; particularly, the children who are infected or who have been orphaned by the disease. Make us a safe haven for those who are abandoned, discriminated against and rejected on account of their illness. Inspire us to speak out for a just distribution of healthcare and medical aid in this country. As we begin our Advent season of waiting in hope, let us remember those across the world who wait in hope for a cure.

Amen.

Biblical Witness

Pastor Felix

2 Corinthians 4:1 & 2, 6-10

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the

shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. For it is God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

Contemporary Witness

Trey Broadhurst

Taken from the biktarvy.com website

Nikki's Story

Nikki didn't know any women like herself living with HIV when she was diagnosed in 2008. She felt alone and like she had lost her voice. But, after some time, she came to the realization that there had to be other young women who also felt unsure about sharing their status. Motivated to connect with women like herself, Nikki posted a video sharing her

story. People all over the world began to reach out to her. And Nikki found they, too, had powerful stories to tell. Today, Nikki leads a support group and hosts a podcast. After writing 2 books, Nikki helps other women tell their stories through writing workshops. She knows these stories can help empower, educate, and support others.

Elias's Story

In his hometown, Elias felt pressure from community and family expectations. He experienced a lot of stigma as a Latino, gay man – he didn't feel free to be himself. After being diagnosed in 2010, he decided that HIV wouldn't hold him back.

Living in San Francisco has always been a dream for Elias. He feels free to be himself and enjoys being active — playing sports, going to the gym, and hiking. Living authentically, Elias is also able to date and build friendships in the community. Today, Elias wants others to know that being yourself can be a powerful thing.

Reflection “We Do Not Lose Heart” Pastor Felix

Special Music “For Good” Aimee and Mark

Remembering & Honoring Pastor Felix

Responsive Prayer

Pastor Felix

Leader: Holy Love, we accept your invitation to walk with you and with each other.

All: When we are feeble, help us reach out to your strong arm. When we are in trouble, help us call on your grace without guilt.

Leader: Increase our faith when our destination seems distant and unreachable. Remind us that our doubts are evidence of thinking and feeling deeply.

All: Draw us close as one family and one spiritual community of care. Show us the needs around us so we can respond with determination. We are grateful for the love inspiring us to make a difference in our world. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

Trey Broadhurst

Plymouth's General Fund &
"AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH)" - Loose Offering

Offertory Music

Video

Offertory Prayer

Trey Broadhurst

LEADER: We are all one human family.

ALL: In your love you created us.

LEADER: Through your grace you reach out to us.

ALL: You are great enough to hold us all in your loving arms at the same time.

LEADER: Help us to open our hearts to the world that you love.

ALL: Teach us to weave our lives together.

LEADER: We yield to Spirit, offering what we have to the greater good.

ALL: In this way, each day, we begin anew in love. Amen.

***Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH #438 "When Peace, Like a River"

When peace, like a river,
Upholds me each day,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though evil should tempt me,
Though trials should come,

Let this blessed assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

O God, speed the day
That is filled with your light,
When clouds are rolled back as a scroll;
The trumpet shall sound
And the Lord shall appear,
“even so” – it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Benediction

Pastor Felix

Postlude

Video

“A Human Touch”

Today’s Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Trey Broadhurst

Sound: Mary Davis

Video: Sarah Bowman

Projector: Amie and Shelby-Mak Friday

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