



Did you know?...

- When we look at HIV/AIDS by race and ethnicity, Blacks have **more illness** (*Blacks represent approximately 13% of the U.S. population and account for 45% of new HIV infections and 46% of people living with HIV disease*); and **more deaths** (*Blacks accounted for 57% of deaths due to HIV in 2006 and the survival time after an AIDS diagnosis is lower on average than it is for most other racial/ethnic groups*).
- Black women account for the largest share of new HIV infections among women (*61% in 2006*).
- Although Black teens (*ages 13-19*) represent only 15% of the U.S. teenagers, they account for 68% of new AIDS cases reported among teens in 2007.
- Of the estimated 141 infants perinatally infected with HIV, 91 (*65%*) were Black (*CDC, HIV/AIDS Reporting System, unpublished data, December 2006*).

Free HIV Testing for Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2010. Walk-in; no appointment necessary; rapid testing, results in 20 minutes on Wednesday, February 10, 2010. Onondaga County Civic Center; 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse; Basement Room #80. Testing from 10:00am to noon & from 1:00 to 3:00pm. Sponsored by Central New York HIV Care Network.

Title: Paraphrase of Psalm 147:1-5

Unison: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

One: The Lord builds up the neighborhood. God brings in the rejected, the forsaken, the homeless. God brings in the abandoned, the abused, the orphans.

**All: Who are we pretending not to see?
Who are we pretending not to hear?
Who are we pretending not to be?
Who are we pretending not to know?
Why?**

One: God heals the broken-hearted, the families, the friends and communities of those afflicted with HIV and AIDS.

**All: Who are we pretending not to see?
Who are we pretending not to hear?
Who are we pretending not to be?
Who are we pretending not to know?
Why?**

One: God binds the wounds of those without hope and counts each one of us as valuable, no matter how dim and flickering a life may seem.

**All: Who are we pretending not to see?
Who are we pretending not to hear?
Who are we pretending not to be?
Who are we pretending not to know?
Why?**

One: God knows each one and calls each one by name. We remember those who have died of AIDS. (call names loud or silent)

**All: Who are we pretending not to see?
Who are we pretending not to hear?
Who are we pretending not to be?
Who are we pretending not to know?
Why?**

One: We remember and embrace those now living with HIV and AIDS:

**All: Who are we pretending not to see?
Who are we pretending not to hear?
Who are we pretending not to be?
Who are we pretending not to know?
Why?**

Unison: Great is our God and abundant in power. God's understanding is beyond measure.

**All: God, grant us the courage to see.
God, grant us the courage to hear.
God, grant us the courage to be.
God, grant us the courage to know and to be known. Amen.**