

Episcopal Relief & Development The Millennium Development Goals Liturgy

Preparation and Set-Up:

Announcement of event (at least a week or two before)

- Announce in the bulletin and from the pulpit that there will be a special “Millennium Development Goals Liturgy” on Friday, _____(date) at ____ (time).
- Suggested wording for announcement:
On _____ (date), we will hold a special “Millennium Development Goals Liturgy.” This liturgy will allow us to explore the goals, passing prayerfully through stations around our church and joining together in supplication for the needs of those who are hungry, sick, and living in extreme poverty.

Set up for the Liturgy

- Designate eight stations around your church.
- For each station, have a poster-size paper listing one of the eight MDGs:
 - MDG 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
 - MDG 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education for Children
 - MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
 - MDG 4: Reduce Child Mortality
 - MDG 5: Improve Maternal Health
 - MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases
 - MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability
 - MDG 8: Create a Global Partnership for Development
- Make enough copies of the liturgy for each participant to have one.

Choose activities and worship experiences for the liturgy*

- Decide on activities for the “Corporate Reflection and Worship” portion of the liturgy, such as:
 - A homily
 - Corporate singing
 - Musical performance with opportunity for reflection
- Decide whether to include activities at each station. For example, when the group reaches each station, they would do the activity and take the time to reflect on the MDGs and pray as the liturgy suggests.
- Determine how much time can be spent at each station (e.g., three minutes; five minutes; seven minutes).
- Assign Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday team leaders or other volunteers to assist at each station as needed.
- Some suggested options for activities are: (can be modified as appropriate)

Station 1: Bag lunches to be distributed to those in need the next day
Bring goods and organize for a local food pantry.

Station 2: Create a card using a poster-size piece of paper. Have each pilgrim write encouraging words, scripture, drawings, etc., making sure to write at the level of a primary school student. Send the card to an Episcopal/Anglican school in the developing world.

Station 3: Have a piece of paper for each pilgrim to write the names of women who have inspired them and why. Include family members, friends, world leaders, historical figures, artists, religious figures and others. Tape pages together top-to-bottom and roll up as a scroll to be read during the corporate worship time.

Station 4: Provide black and white drawings or outlines of children's faces. Have pilgrims color the faces. While the group is coloring, ring a bell every fifteen seconds to recognize that another child died from a preventable water-borne illness.

Station 5: Have a poster-size piece of paper for each pilgrim and a thick black permanent marker. Ask each pilgrim to write the first-name only of every woman they know who had a baby in the past year. When the list is complete, draw a black cross next to the name of every 16th woman. Explain that this represents the plight of women in sub-Saharan Africa, where one in 16 pregnant women die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth each day.

Station 6: Have a bed sheet and a couple of ink pads or finger paints.
Have one pilgrim make a handprint every thirty seconds. Explain that the number of handprints on the sheet symbolize how many children have died from malaria during the time you were at the station.

Station 7: Have pilgrims calculate their [carbon footprint](#) and come up with three strategies to reduce it.

Station 8: Have pilgrims sign and address postcards to members of Congress urging support for the Millennium Development Goals.

*** Remember to modify the liturgy to reflect any additional activities you choose**

Breaking into groups

- If you have a more than 10 people, you may want to break into two or more groups, and start each group at a different station.
- Distribute copies of the liturgy to each person

Begin the Liturgy

- Begin by reading the introduction to provide a context for this activity, and then move into the liturgy itself.

The Millennium Development Goals Liturgy

Introduction

In 2000, leaders from the United States and 190 other nations came together to develop a plan to cut extreme global poverty in half by 2015. To guide this critical work and measure its success, eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were created. At the 74th General Convention in 2003, the Episcopal Church formally endorsed the MDGs. In 2006, at the 75th Convention, the Church voted to make the MDGs a mission priority over the next three years.

Episcopal Relief & Development uses the MDGs as benchmarks to measure our progress in fighting extreme poverty and disease around the world. All of Episcopal Relief & Development's programs and partnerships fulfill one or more of the MDGs. In 2007 - at the midpoint of this historic effort - Episcopal Relief & Development, Jubilee Ministries and the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church launched the MDG Inspiration Fund to highlight the urgency of reaching these goals.

Today, we will pray and experience the MDGs as Stations as we commit ourselves to living out the Baptismal Covenant, working to achieve the MDGs. We see ourselves and the Church on a pilgrimage in the world, journeying with each other toward the justice of the Reign of God, manifest in the goals.

Welcome

The Leader and Pilgrims process to the Pilgrims Font.

Leader As we enter into this time of pilgrimage, discerning how to be instruments of healing in this hurting world, let us recommit ourselves to the Baptismal Covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Leader Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Leader Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Leader Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Leader Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Leader Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Leader Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Leader Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Leader Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

Stations of the Millennium Development Goals

At the beginning of each station the group prays together:

God you created us and call us to be in this world,
part of your creative force.
In Christ you teach us the way of salvation.
Help us to live radically in a broken world.
Send your Spirit upon us that we might be
instruments of your peace.

Vocalizing the Millennium Development Goals: The leader will read the goal out loud at each Station.

Reflection: Participants will reflect on each goal (see below)

At the end of each station the group prays together:

Holy God
Holy and Mighty
Holy Immortal One
Transform us
That we might transform the world

When you have passed through all eight stations please return to area around the font.

Reflection at the Stations

Reflect upon Matthew 25:37-40, the mandate of Episcopal Relief & Development:

Lord, when was it that

We saw you hungry and gave you food?

We saw you thirsty and gave you something to drink?

We saw you a stranger and welcomed you?

We saw you sick and took care of you?

We saw you in prison and visited you?

‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

Station: MDG 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

- One sixth of the world’s population lives on less than \$1.00 every day. One person dies from hunger every 3.5 seconds. Each one of them is a child of God. The aim of Goal One is to cut in half the number of people who are hungry.
- For personal reflection and prayer: *Lord, help us to truly see those who are hungry and poor and to feed them so that they may live in abundance.*

Station: MDG 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

- In many parts of the world, children—especially girls, have no opportunity to attend school. We must ensure that boys and girls everywhere are able to complete a full course of primary school.
- For personal reflection and prayer: *Lord, we pray for open hearts and open doors to allow all children to learn and grow in knowledge of your world and your Word.*

Station: MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

- Women and girls continue to be oppressed and discriminated against in many areas of the world. We must work to eliminate discrimination against women in education and wages.
- For personal reflection and prayer: *Have mercy, O Lord, upon the women of this world who live with injustice as their constant companion. Help us to eliminate cruelty and oppression to these our neighbors.*

Station: MDG 4: Reduce Child Mortality

- Every three seconds a child under the age of five dies. A disproportionate number of these children live in developing countries, without access to clean water or basic medical care.
- For personal reflection and prayer: *Lord, help us to love and care for little children the least of these who are of your family. Protect and heal them with your divine power.*

Station: MDG 5: Improve Maternal Health

- Every year more than 500,000 women die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. In some parts of the world, expectant mothers are almost as likely to die in childbirth as they are to live.
- For personal reflection and prayer: *Lord, we pray for expectant mothers and those with young infants. Protect them in pregnancy and childbirth.*

Station: MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases

- Diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis claim millions of lives each year and tear families apart. Yet, each of these diseases is preventable and treatable.

- For personal reflection and prayer: *Lord, you call us to care for the sick as though we were caring for you. Give us strength and compassion to follow your command.*

Station: MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

- God made us stewards of creation. Clean water, sanitation, and development can work together to save lives and create productive, thriving societies and safeguard our planet.
- For personal reflection and prayer: *Lord, bless the lands and the waters, multiply the harvests of the world; let thy Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth...and save us from selfish use of what thou givest.*

Station: MDG 8: Create a Global Partnership for Development

- The success of the MDGs depends on all of us: rich and poor alike, our churches, our corporate institutions, and our governments. A fair trading system, increased international aid, and debt relief for developing countries will help us realize the goals.
- For personal reflection and prayer: *Lord, grant that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Community Reflection and Worship

Pilgrims gather together for a time of corporate reflection and worship.

Commitment to the Millennium Development Goals

Leader Let us repeat together and commit ourselves to the Millennium Development Goals.

People As Christians we commit ourselves to God's Mission as we work to:

- 1.) Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
- 2.) Achieve Universal Primary Education for Children
- 3.) Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
- 4.) Reduce Child Mortality
- 5.) Improve Maternal Health
- 6.) Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases
- 7.) Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- 8.) Create a Global Partnership for Development

Concluding Collect: The Prayer of St. Francis

Leader Let us pray.

All Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen.*

All We go in peace to love and serve.