

Installation Service for Presbyterian Women

Gathering Words

As Presbyterian women, we are called to celebrate our journeys through life, walking in grace with our sisters and brothers, and bearing the light of the gospel. Women who are called to leadership have the added task and joy of helping to illuminate the future for the church.

Lighting of the Christ Candle Call to Worship

Based on *Psalms 9:1-2*

Leader: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

People: I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High!

Hymn

“Live Into Hope”
(PH #332)

Scripture Readings

Genesis 1:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16

Litany of the Faithful— A Weaving of Scripture and Words

A: God said, “Let there be light,”
and there was light.

B: Listen and hope with me.

A: Come, let us walk in God’s light.

B: Labor and pray with me.

A: Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me.

B: Dream and wait with me.

A: Arise, shine, for your light has come.

B: Sing and dance with me.

A: Walk as children of light.

B: Listen and hope, labor and pray,
dream and wait, sing and dance
with me.

All: **Wrapped in light as garment, our God lights up our darkness, calling the faithful to celebrate the light.**

Hymn

“Take My Life”
(PH #391)

Installation

Leader: God’s beloved daughters [speak the first name of each woman to be installed], we gather as a community of faith to celebrate this day. You have been called by name, set apart for the joy and honor of leadership. Much will be required of you, but do not fear. God will give each of you a full measure of grace. Your gifts, your hopes and dreams, your vision and hard work, will make a difference in the ministries and grace of the church. Listen and respond to the following questions:

Trusting in Jesus Christ as your Savior, will you serve as a leader of Presbyterian Women, guided by the ordering of God’s Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow Christ, loving your sisters and brothers, and living responsibly in all your relationships?

Do you promise in your ministry to work for peace, justice and freedom for all God’s children,

serving with energy, intelligence, imagination and love?

Will you be a faithful leader, proclaiming the good news, supporting the work of the church and celebrating in all situations God’s marvelous light, in which you dwell?

Congregational Response (in unison): **Our sisters, you have promised to lead us, following Christ in your own lives, serving with energy, intelligence, imagination and love; working for peace, justice and freedom; and celebrating the light in which we dwell.**

We return your promise in kind, pledging to listen and hope, labor and pray, dream and wait, sing and dance with you as together we bear the light of the gospel.

Prayer of Installation

Leader: God of light, grace and wisdom, look upon these women you have called. Fill them with enthusiasm and courage, energy and imagination, compassion and joy. Embrace them, whisper to their hearts, take them by the hand and lead them. Give them teachable spirits, willing hands and feet. As you lead them forth in grace, give us the faith to follow, that Presbyterian Women might continue to make a difference in the world as we celebrate your light. We pray in the name of the one who is the light, Christ Jesus. Amen.

Hymn

“The Holy Women of the Past”

The Holy Women of the Past

CANONBURY LM

Elaine McRobbie, 1993

Robert Schumann, 1839

1. The ho - ly wo - men_ of the_ past our faith - ful jour - ney bid us make. We
2. For - giv - en, freed, and_ clothed in_ love, we fash - ion true com - mun - i - ty. We
3. We work for jus - tice_ and for_ peace; we fol - low Christ from Ga - li - lec. The
4. We dream and vi - sion, dance and_ play; we rise as lead - ers in the race To

hear the call - ing_ grace at_ last, and rise to speak for_ Je - sus' sake.
wor - ship as the_ saints a - bove, the daught - ers of the_ Tri - ni - ty.
Spi - rit gives us_ full re - lease; no wo - man's life will_ bar - ren be.
teach our chil - dren_ how to_ pray; and lead our sis - ters_ forth in grace.

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Benediction

Based on *Ephesians 5:8–9*

Leader: Once you were darkness,
but now in the Lord you are light.
Live as children of light.

People: The fruit of the light is
found in all that is good and
right and true.

All: Celebrate, oh celebrate,
the light!

Alternate Hymns

“Be Thou My Vision”
(PH #339)

“Christ of the Upward Way”
(PH #344)

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can
Use Me”
(PH #369)

Hymns marked PH are found in
The Presbyterian Hymnal (Louisville,
Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 1990).

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