

Installation Service for Presbyterian Women

Journey of Hope

BY JUDIA FOREMAN

The ideal time for this installation service is during Sunday worship. Ask your pastor to suggest a Sunday when you may include it. Liturgical leadership may be provided by the pastor, or by PW leadership from the presbytery or the synod.

For this service, you will need a Christ candle, a cross and copies of the *Sing the Faith* hymnal (or copies of hymns to use in place of the suggested hymns). The hymns may be sung by all, by a soloist or read aloud with different women reading each verse. As you plan for this installation service, be mindful of elected leaders or members of your congregation who have impairments (vision, hearing, mobility) that may prevent them from participating in this service as suggested; make accommodations wherever possible.

Lighting the Christ Candle

“. . . they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever” (*Revelation 22:5*).

Call to Worship (*Revelation 1: 4–6*)

Leader: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

All: To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn

“At the Font We Start Our Journey” (SF 2114)

Leader: Your journey of hope, guided by the light of Christ, commenced in the Easter faith with your baptism. You have traveled for many years with the prophets and witnesses whose faith was boldly proclaimed. You have been nurtured at the table with the gift of bread and the love of Christ. You are now called to embark on a journey to share the peace of Christ.

Litany of Hope

Leader: As Presbyterian women, you have been forgiven and freed, so lift up your voices in praise.

**All: For you have been my hope, O Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth.
From birth I have relied on you;
you brought me forth from my mother’s womb.
I will ever praise you.**

**I have become like a portent to many,
but you are my strong refuge.
My mouth is filled with your praise,
declaring your splendor all day long.**

—*Psalm 71:5–8* (NIV)

Leader: You have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve with humility.

**All: Love the LORD, all his saints!
The LORD preserves the faithful,
but the proud he pays back in full.
Be strong and take heart,
All you who hope in the LORD.**

—*Psalm 31:23–24* (NIV)

Leader: Support the mission of the church worldwide and work for justice and peace.

**All: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,
the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—**

the LORD, who remains faithful forever.
He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets prisoners free,
the LORD gives sight to the blind,
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,
the LORD loves the righteous.
The LORD watches over the alien
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.
—Psalm 146: 5–9 (NIV)

Leader: Build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

All: But as for me, I will always have hope;
I will praise you more and more.
My mouth will tell of your righteousness,
of your salvation all day long,
though I know not its measure.
I will come and proclaim your mighty acts,
O Sovereign LORD;
I will proclaim your righteousness,
yours alone.
Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,
and to this day I declare your marvelous
deeds.
Even when I am old and gray,
do not forsake me, O God,
till I declare your power to the next
generation,
your might to all who are to come.
—Psalm 71:14–18 (NIV)

Commissioning

Elected officers should form a circle around the cross, Christ candle and Bible, joining their hands.

Leader: In *Revelation 3:16*, John of Patmos admonishes the church in Laodicea because they had become lukewarm. The Lord has called you to serve *boldly* with passion and love for creation and all humankind. Some of you are continuing a journey of leadership that has already begun, while others are embarking upon it for the first time. God has called you as individuals to journey together as one in hope, compassion, love and service.

As leaders of Presbyterian women, will you serve humbly, yet boldly, with joy and praise to the glory of God?

Elected Leaders: We will.

Leader: Will you work together, answering the call you received in your congregation, presbytery, synod and churchwide?

Elected Leaders: We will.

Leader: Will you, as Presbyterian women, boldly support and nurture the women you have chosen as leaders with love and compassion?

All: We will.

Leader: As leaders of Presbyterian Women, serve the Lord boldly embracing the opportunities awaiting you, knowing God has called you. Know that you are not alone; God is always with you and your sisters in Christ.

Hymn

"We Are Called" (SF 2172)

Leader: You have been called. Shine with joy and your love of the Lord as you serve in God's kingdom. Serve from the heart, showing love and mercy as you share hope for the hopeless. Walk with your sisters and brothers as you humbly yet boldly share your faith.

Closing Prayer

**All: God of creation, compassion and love,
as we begin our journey of hope in you,
enlighten us as to your will.
Strengthen us so we may serve you boldly.
Enable us to answer your call.
Alleluia! Amen.**

Benediction

Leader: The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."
And let everyone who hears say, "Come."
And let everyone who is thirsty come.
Let anyone who wishes take the water of life
as a gift.

.....
The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints.
Amen.

—*Revelation 22: 17, 21*

Judia Foreman is a wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother who has served at the congregation, presbytery, synod and churchwide levels of Presbyterian Women.

SF—*Sing the Faith* (Louisville, Ky.: Geneva, 2003)

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