

Service to God Through Giving



Dedication Service

BY BETTY DELANEY



*Do not neglect to do good
and to share what you
have, for such sacrifices
are pleasing to God.*

—Hebrews 13:16

Call to Worship

One: Creator God, our Alpha and Omega,

All: we are your beloved. Come, fill this gathering with your gracious presence.

One: Almighty God, who reigns in glory,

All: we lift our voices to sing your praises and magnify your name.

One: Merciful and loving God,

All: we give thanks for all the blessings you have given us.

One: Holy and sustaining God,

All: inspire and empower us to do your will each and every day.

Hymn

“Jesus, We Are Here” (GtG 392)

Meditation

Autumn. On the first day as I wake to total darkness, I am reminded of a children’s story.

At the beginning of fall, a little boy daily complained to his father about how he missed the sun in the morning and how he missed playing outside in the evening because of the darkness. After several days of whining, the boy said, “If I had one wish, I’d wish that it would always be spring and summer.”

Hearing this, the father explained that the seasons were a result of Earth’s rotation. Then, looking at his son, he asked, “Would you really want to keep the sun, knowing that children on the other side of the world would always have autumn and winter?”

When his son said no, the father smiled. Then the father said, “Think of the seasons as God’s way of sharing the gift of the sun.”

Remembering this story, I smile. My focus is no longer on the morning's darkness but on sharing—and God's love. God shared. God gave Jesus to the world—people in need of salvation—as an example of how to live. God sent a savior to help us, teach us, redeem us.

Hebrews 13:16 reminds us that Christian living is not solely about worshiping and praising God; it's also about doing good. It's about sharing one's time, talents, treasures and heart to help those in need. The phrase "love one another" appears 11 times in the Bible. More than 100 verses use phrases such as, "pray for one another," "encourage one another," "help one another" and "support one another."

Countless members of the family of God—those who are lonely, orphaned, sick, disempowered, marginalized, oppressed, homeless—are hurting. The world has so many needs, but we don't have to be overwhelmed by them all. Our job is not to save the world; God has already done this through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Our job is to continue Christ's ministry in the world. Today's scripture is a call to action. Each of us can do something to enrich the life of someone in need. Each of us can be a light, leading someone to the saving love of Christ. By serving others through small acts of kindness, dedicating time to doing good, giving to ministries such as Presbyterian Women, we serve God.

Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering supports programs serving our local and global communities. Let us be grateful for generous hearts and express appreciation for those who have been inspired to serve, share and do good works as acts of worship.

Prayer of Dedication

Almighty and loving God, we present this Birthday Offering to you with thankful hearts and praise. We give cheerfully, acknowledging that

- In love, you gave first;
- As your children, we've been given much;
- Our giving is a form of worship and praise to you.

We also acknowledge that we are commanded to love one another. Presbyterian Women cares about mission service, seeking justice and ensuring that all are included around the table. We believe that this offering will bring hope and healing where there is a need.

Holy God, we ask you to accept, bless and use this offering to your glory. May it be used to help build your kingdom here on earth, creating a world where everyone is loved, a world where justice reigns, a world where daily needs are met. This we pray in the name of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Hymn

"We All Are One in Mission" (GtG 733)

Closing Prayer

Good and gracious God, we bow before you to say, "Thank you." Thank you for the reminder to do your will by giving to others. Thank you for ministries and programs that assist the most vulnerable. Thank you for setting the ultimate example of giving. Thank you for your faithfulness, goodness, mercy and grace. Bless the givers and the recipients of this offering. **Amen.**

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NOTES

Hymns marked "GtG" are from Glory to God (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2013).

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