



A Service of Installation for Presbyterian Women

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Call to Worship (Based on Galatians 3:25–29)

One: Our God who creates the world and all that is in it; the one who redeems us and all of creation; the one who sustains and enlivens us for faithful living

All: **is the source of our life and the beginning and end of our identity.**

One: We who have been baptized into Christ have clothed ourselves with Christ.

All: **There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of us are one in Christ Jesus.**

One: Baptized into Christ, we seek to serve him and witness to his way in all that we say and do.

All: **May our worship this day reflect the way of Christ and encourage us as we seek to serve him here and now. Let us worship God in whom we live and move and have our being.**

Hymn: “Here in This Place” (GtG 401)*

Prayer for Illumination

Holy One, open our ears and hearts this day, that as scripture is read, we may hear and feel your word spoken. Stir within us a clear understanding of our identity and vocation as your people that we may be faithful to your claim on our lives in all we say and all we do. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 5:1–16

Meditation

In the Gospel of Matthew, the beatitudes are similar to the Gospel of Luke when Jesus reads from the scroll of

Isaiah 61. They are a declaration—right at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry—of what his ministry is all about, who he is and by extension, who his followers are called to be. Those of us who follow Jesus know that through our baptism, we have been clothed with Christ and are called to witness to his way in all that we say and all that we do.

The beatitudes challenge the world’s way with the way of the kingdom of heaven, which says that the poor, those who mourn, the meek and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful and pure in heart, the peacemakers and those who are persecuted for their faith are blessed now and will have their fortunes reversed in the kingdom of heaven. The beatitudes also reflect for followers of Jesus the way we are called to be in the world. Our identity as children of God and followers of Jesus Christ is bound up in living in the tension between the way the world is and the way God intends it to be. May we find resilience and joy in knowing our identity to be in Jesus Christ and may our lives witness to the kingdom of heaven in all that we say and all that we do. Amen.

Hymn: “Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm” (GtG 731)

Prayer

God in whom we live, move and have our being, we praise you for the gift of creation, for covenanting with our ancestors, Abraham, Sarah and Hagar, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to the nations. We thank you for coming in Jesus of Nazareth to show us how to live your way in the world. We are grateful that through our baptism, we have been clothed with Christ and thus have a new way of being. With full hearts, we gratefully

acknowledge that we belong to you, that our core identity is being a child of God and follower of Jesus, the Christ.

Equip and encourage participants in Presbyterian Women to live into their identity in Christ as they

- ♦ value the poor,
- ♦ mourn with those who mourn,
- ♦ honor the meek,
- ♦ join those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
- ♦ reflect the actions of the merciful,
- ♦ recognize the pure in heart, and
- ♦ seek to be peacemakers.

Give them resilience along this journey of faith. May they find joy even when days are challenging. May all of us gathered this day, know the hope that comes from belonging to you, O God. We trust that you will use our everyday lives to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all that we say and all that we do, so that working with you the kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Service of Installation

Invitation to Support PW's Purpose

One: As Followers of Jesus the Christ, we are called to love and serve God as we love and serve one another. Knowing we are called and equipped by God to this particular service as leaders of Presbyterian Women, let us now affirm our commitment to God and one another as we say together the PW Purpose:

All: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- ♦ to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study
- ♦ to support the mission of the church worldwide
- ♦ to work for justice and peace, and
- ♦ to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the ways you call and equip us for service in the church and world. Today we thank you particularly for the call you have placed on these leaders of Presbyterian Women. For the individuals who will serve in leadership positions, organizing, preparing, offering hospitality, we offer our gratitude and thanks. For all who will study, learn, grow in faith and nurture relationships with one another, we are grateful. Continue to give each person the gifts needed to serve faithfully and an open heart to be transformed by your Spirit. Amen.

Litany of Installation

(Consider offering words of thanks and gifts to outgoing leaders before beginning the installation.)

Leader: We will now install our new leaders and commit to supporting them and our mission.

Leader: *(to elected leaders)* Having affirmed the PW Purpose, will you be faithful to it as you lead Presbyterian Women to live into the purpose through your fellowship, study and service together?

Elected Leaders: We will.

Leader: Will you seek to lead with compassion, love, joy and humility, making space for different stories and different experiences so that you may learn from one another?

Elected Leaders: We will.

Leader: *(to the congregation)* Will you support the leadership of these Presbyterian women, pray for and encourage them, and partner with them in ministry as they assume these roles?

All: We will. We will do everything in love, serving together as God calls us to do.

Declaration of Installation

Leader: *(name of each new leader)*, you are now installed as leaders of Presbyterian Women for *(group/congregation/presbytery/synod)*. God has claimed you and called you to this service. God will continue to equip and empower you in it. In all that you say and do, faithfully witness to the love, grace and mercy of Jesus Christ.

Hymn: "O for a World" (GtG 372)

Benediction

God claimed you in the waters of baptism where you were clothed with Christ. Claimed, called and equipped by God, go now in peace to love and serve our Lord as you love and serve one another, witnessing to the kingdom of heaven in all you say and do. As you go, may the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit go with you today and always. Amen. 🍷

Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff serves as general presbyter for the Presbytery of East Tennessee.

Notes

* GtG indicates *Glory to God! The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2013).