

# Behold, I Am Doing a New Thing

2025 Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women Dedication Service

BY ANITA BETTS

보라, 내가 새 일을  
행하리라

*Go voy a hacer  
algo nuevo*





## Lighting of the Christ Candle

Leader: As we light this candle, let us call upon the one who makes a new way for us, the light of all the world, to come into our presence.

*(Light the Christ candle.)*

## Call to Worship

(Adapted from Psalm 66:16–20)

One: Come and hear, all you who fear God.

**All: Let us learn what God has done for us all.**

One: We have cried out to God and given praise with our tongues.

**All: Truly, God has listened and paid attention to our prayers.**

One: God has not rejected our prayers or withheld any love.

**All: Praise be to God, the source of steadfast love for all.**

## Hymn Suggestion

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

“We all Are One in Mission” (GtG 733)

## Scripture

“Behold, I am doing a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.”

—Isaiah 43:19 (ESV)\*

## Meditation

This year’s Thank Offering scripture highlights how God brings hope and renewal to the people, even in the midst of seemingly impossible situations. Following the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple in 587 (BCE), the people of Israel were forced into exile in Babylon. In this verse from Isaiah, we encounter the prophet as he paints a hopeful and joyous picture of returning to the land of Israel. To this new generation returning home after five decades in a foreign land, Isaiah says that a “new and improved” exodus is promised by God for the people.

Presbyterian women’s gifts to the Thank Offering also offer hope and renewal. Our grant recipients have a plan, and work to improve the lives of those they serve—the “least of these” (Matt. 25:45). PW’s Thank Offering grants enable and empower them to do just that.

A variety of ministries that serve the needs of our siblings in Christ will receive grants this year with gifts received through the Thank Offering. Beds will be built for children in Nebraska, and tiny home duplexes will be constructed in Washington. Buckhorn Children and Family Services will put up fencing to keep children safe in Kentucky, and Community Garden Kitchen will create a restaurant training program for foster care youth in Texas. In New York, grants will fund technology upgrades in Queens and a kitchen renovation in Spencertown. The Thank Offering will help feed people in Virginia and provide showers for those who need them in Louisiana. Leadership training will be possible for youth and adults in Sheridan, Wyoming, and across the country in Roanoke, Virginia.

All these gifts will improve the lives of those receiving them. Your generosity to the Thank Offering bears witness to God’s work in the world.

## Prayer of Dedication

Holy, generous, and merciful Lord, we give you thanks for the Thank Offering grants that are bestowed upon our sisters and brothers in Christ. May these gifts enrich their lives and point us all towards your unending goodness and mercy. **Amen.**

## Closing Prayer

We have cried out to you, O God,  
and have trusted that you hear us.  
We have prayed for renewal,  
and have found assurance that you offer it.  
We have longed for hope,  
and have learned that it springs forth from you.  
We have sought your path, and  
have seen that you make a way through the wilderness.  
You are doing a new thing, O God.

Help us bring your vision of hope to all the world.

**Amen.** *(Extinguish the Christ candle.)*

Anita Betts serves as the Synod of the Covenant representative to the Churchwide Board of Directors of Presbyterian Women.

Hymns marked “GtG” are from *Glory to God* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2013)

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