

Carrying Forward a Faithful Legacy

Installation Service for Presbyterian Women Leaders

BY REV. LISA LÓPEZ-MEYER

Call to Worship

One: Come, people of God, let us praise the Holy One who gathers us in love!

All: **In the beginning, God made all things good. All humans were made in the image of God.**

One: Come, beloved disciples, let us honor the Savior who makes all things new.

All: **In Jesus Christ we are a new creation. We are forgiven, freed and filled with joy.**

One: Come, siblings in faith, let us attend to the Spirit who empowers us for the gospel.

All: **Through the Spirit we can do anything that God has called us to do!**

One: Let us celebrate God's love and call!

All: Amen! Amen! Amen!

Hymn*

"Here in this Place" (GtG 401) or

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (GtG 611)

Call to Confession

One: Our Holy God requires both our honesty and our repentance. In humility and faith let us confess our sin together.

Prayer of Confession

All: **Merciful God, you have called us to be your people and claimed us for service in Jesus Christ. Yet we confess we have not always lived up to our calling. We hesitate to act when we've heard you leading us to the unfamiliar and difficult. We fail to love as deeply as Christ loves, pushing away neighbors and co-workers in the faith. We cling to our own preferences and fail to trust the strength of your Spirit. Forgive our foolish ways. Strengthen us anew to follow Christ's way in the world.**

Assurance of Pardon

One: By God's grace, our past does not define us. When we turn to God, Christ only asks that we be faithful to God now and in the future. Friends, believe the Good News! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Scripture Suggestions

- Joel 2:28–32 (God's Spirit poured on both men and women)
- Luke 1:26–38 (Mary's call and her acceptance)
- 1 Corinthians 12:4–11 (Variety of gifts, one Spirit)

Message

Service of Installation

(To be led by the pastor or an existing PW leader, as appropriate. Leader invites the new officers to come forward to face the gathered body.)

Statement of Ministry

For more than 200 years, Presbyterian women have affirmed God's particular call to women of all ages, races and backgrounds to be involved in ministry and mission through the PC(USA) in service to the Lord Jesus Christ. Through local and regional organizations, Presbyterian Women seeks to build an inclusive, caring community that nurtures women in their faith, creates bonds of fellowship across generations, and works for justice and peace through a diversity of national and global initiatives.

To serve as a leader for Presbyterian Women is to choose to carry forward this legacy of courage, love and service with commitment and perseverance. It is to be strengthened by the example of the faithful women who have come before—women like Mary and Elizabeth, Deborah and Esther, Ruth and Hannah, the Hebrew midwives and the women disciples

who first discovered the empty tomb—and be part of the work that God will still do through the women of the next generations.

Today we give thanks for our outgoing leaders who have served Presbyterian Women (*list the names of the outgoing leaders*) and we give thanks for those who are entering their service to PW (*list the names of the incoming leaders as well as the positions being filled and the terms of service*). We ask for God's blessing as we covenant in service together.

Questions to the New Leaders

(*Leader invites the new leaders to rise in body or spirit.*)

One: Do you trust in Jesus Christ our Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one Triune God, whom alone we worship and serve?

New leaders: I do.

One: Do you promise to be diligent in prayer and Bible study, in your personal life and with your PW sisters, as you seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit for your life and work?

New leaders: I do.

One: Do you promise to support the mission of Christ through the hands of the church, locally and globally, working with Presbyterian Women to promote justice and peace?

New leaders: I do.

One: Do you promise to love and care for your co-leaders and all participants in Presbyterian Women in a manner that shows the gracious, inclusive love of Jesus Christ, and that witnesses to the loving community of God's reign?

New leaders: I do.

Questions to Presbyterian Women

One: Do we, members of (*congregation, presbytery or synod*) accept (*name the new leaders*) as leaders called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to lead Presbyterian Women in a way that is worthy of our Lord Jesus Christ?

All: We do.

One: Do we agree to pray for our sisters, encourage them, collaborate with them and learn from them and with them as we all seek to grow in faith and love?

All: We do.

Prayer and Laying on of Hands

(*Leader invites other PW members to lay hands on the new leaders during the prayer.*)

God of goodness and grace, from ancient times you have called women to be faithful leaders in your work of redemption and today we bring before you these your servants to be blessed for the journey ahead. We thank you for the gifts you have already poured out upon them and ask that you give them the wisdom and the courage to use these gifts to serve your people well. We thank you for the love you have given these individuals through the Holy Spirit, and ask that they do everything in love, for the upbuilding of all Presbyterian Women and the church. May their work lead us to be even more faithful followers of you. Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Statement of Installation

By your own commitment and the acceptance of this body, you are now installed as leaders for the work of Presbyterian Women in (*congregation, presbytery or synod*) and for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome

One: Let us welcome our new leaders with applause!

Hymn*

"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" (GtG 69) or
"Together We Serve" (GtG 767)

Benediction

As you go from this place,
may the love of God surround you,
the grace of Christ uphold you,
and the power of the Spirit sustain you
until you reach the goodness that God always
intended for each one of us. Amen. 🍷

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Notes

* Please rise in body or spirit.

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