



Women's Ordination Worldwide 2015



"The Roman Catholic Church, which is my Church, is misogynist and patriarchal in nature. This needs to be changed as quickly as possible."

Sr. Teresa Forcades, PhD, MD

Table of Contents:

WOW Mission	inside cover	Acknowledgements	10-11
Welcome Letter	1	Saturday Prayer	12-13
Schedule	2-3	Sunday Liturgy	14-19
Speakers	4-5	Song Book	20-29
Exhibits	6	Legacy Circle	30
Workshop Descriptions	7-9		

Founded in 1996, Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW) is an international network of groups whose current mission is to see Catholic women admitted to all ordained ministries in the Church. WOW is founded on the gospel principle of equality.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

WELCOMING WOMEN AS EQUAL DISCIPLES - #WOW2015

Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW) is a global advocacy network founded nearly two decades ago to bring together voices who say yes: "There is no longer male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). Our mission is to support an ecumenical network of organizations and leaders working for the admission of Roman Catholic women to all ordained ministries. WOW works to affirm women as fully human and honors the courage of all who walk the difficult journey of responding to God's call.

Gender, Gospel & Global Justice: We can only legitimately preach the true Gospel message of equality when the gifts of men and women are used without exceptions based on gender discrimination. The Catholic Church participates in the continued discrimination of women around the world by denying their full equality in the Church.

"The reason some questions cannot be suppressed, do not go away—regardless of how many people think they should—is because the human heart knows they must be asked or have yet to be clearly answered. When that question concerns the quality of the discipleship of half the Catholics in the world, it cries out for attention. And will continue to cry out until the church itself attends to it. Why? Because the model of Jesus with women demands it." – Sr. Joan Chittister and Martin Sheen

An obligation to discuss ordination:

- How can we preach equal human dignity if women's vocations are still considered invalid?
- How can we allow our faith to teach that Jesus would have wanted it this way?
- How can we cite a corrupt culture of clericalism as a reason to keep women from priesthood while only celebrating the ordination of men?
- How can we continue to be complicit in the ritualized silencing of women's voices when their calling as priests is dismissed and mocked?
- How can the Church denounce gender discrimination with any credibility while upholding Canon Law 1024 — an unjust law based on misogynist prejudice and outdated theology?
- How can we obey the 1994 Papal ban on discussing women's ordination when it was not an infallible ruling and was not approved by the world's bishops?
- How can we accept the claim that the ban is firmly rooted in scripture when the 1976 Pontifical Biblical Commission found that such a claim could not be made on biblical grounds?
- How can we account for the historical record of deacons and women leaders in the Bible and accept the tradition of banishing women from the altar and history?
- Why is women's ordination among one of the only closed-door topics for Pope Francis and so many others in the institutional arm of the Church?
- When conscience compels many priests to question the teaching that only men can image Christ, how can we encourage more of them to break their silence?
- How can we be a Church for the poor without advancing the status of women in visible roles of ministry that would change the way women are viewed around the world?

WOW 2015 aims:

- To declare that ordination equality is an integral part of freeing our Church from discrimination.
- To demonstrate the interconnection between the exclusion of women in ministry and the global damage the Church does to the status and treatment of women and girls.
- To highlight the consequences of suppressing women's history to maintain an unjust exclusion.

WOW Steering Committee Delegates:

Alicja Baranowska - Individual, Poland/Belgium
Pat Brown – Catholic Women's Ordination, UK
Claude Dubois - FHEDLES, France
Rosaline Costa - Individual, Bangladesh
Olivia Doko - Roman Catholic Women Priests, International
Miriam Duignan – Wijngaards Institute, International
Annette Esser – Maria von Magdala & Aktion Lila Stola, Germany
Gertrude Gill - We Are Church Ireland, Ireland
Maire Goss – Catholic Network for Women's Equality, Canada
Marilyn Hatton - Catholics for Ministry & WATAC, Australia
Colm Holmes – We Are Church Ireland, Ireland

Gonzague Jobbe-Duval - FHEDLES, France
Andrea Johnson - Roman Catholic Women Priests, International
Kate McElwee - Women's Ordination Conference, USA
Katharine Salmon - Catholic Women's Ordination, UK

Committee Delegates Ex Officio:
Erin Saiz Hanna - WOW 2015
Colette Joyce - Treasurer
Therese Koturbash - Communications Coordinator
Jennifer Stark – Archivist

Dear Conference Participants One and All,

On behalf of the Women's Ordination Conference and Women's Ordination Worldwide, it is with both honor and joy that we formally welcome you to the WOW 2015: Gender, Gospel and Global Justice Conference here in Philadelphia, PA. We appreciate your presence and look forward to serving you.

Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW), a global advocacy network for women's ordination was founded nearly two decades ago to bring together voices who join with Saint Paul in saying yes—"there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

In 2001, the first WOW conference made headlines as the Vatican attempted to silence Sr. Joan Chittister from speaking at the event. Women's ordination supporters and Sr. Joan's Benedictine community stood by her and showed the world the power of Catholic women's solidarity.

This weekend marks WOW's third international conference. Since we last gathered in Ottawa in 2005, our movement and Church have seen many changes—from the ordinations to the excommunications, from the Skype meetings to the gates of St. Peter's—we are as strong and vibrant as ever. Here's to sharing and making more memories with each of you this weekend.

As the host organization, the Women's Ordination Conference (WOC) will also celebrate our 40th anniversary with you on Friday evening. We'll do that with storytelling and cake. We cannot express our gratitude for all of those who have been a part of WOC—whether your participation has been big or small, it all counts with us. It is on your shoulders we stand today, humbled by the trails you have blazed and the endurance of your witness for women's equality in our Church and our world. We also hope you will consider becoming a member of our Legacy Circle to ensure WOC can continue to promote the values of gender justice through future generations (page 30).

We encourage you to share the good news of WOW 2015 on social media while you are attending the conference and in the months to follow through personal social media

posts, blogs, essays, and photos. For Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram users: #WOW2015 and #ordainwomen are best to tag your posts.

At the same time, we ask you to respect the confidentiality and comfort of those around you by gently asking permission before photographing anyone. In documenting personal and informal conversations, please remember there should be no attribution without permission.

Our conference attendees represent all sectors and demographic groups in our movement from around the globe, including young and seasoned activists, activists of color, straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer participants, theologians and students, women who are ordained, women waiting for Canon 1024 to be overturned, and those who believe solely on the priesthood of the baptized. We have varying abilities and disabilities, body shapes and body expressions: all are welcome. In short, WOW is a gathering of faithful feminists working to create a just Catholic Church and world where all are truly equal and welcomed. We invite everyone to do what you are able to make sure you and those around you feel safe and accepted—inclusive language helps create that open environment.

We now extend our thanks and appreciation for all the staff and countless volunteers who dedicated themselves to making this conference a success. Many in this movement give freely of their time, talent and treasures—the achievements of your hours, days and years are beyond measure. Turn to page 10 to view their names. We thank you from our hearts. We are so fortunate to be doing this incredible ministry with each of you.

Enjoy the conference and take great pleasure in being with friends, colleagues, and even new acquaintances you'll no doubt meet in the coming days.

For equality,

Kate McElwee and Erin Saiz Hanna
Co-Executive Directors
Women's Ordination Conference

National Board of Directors:

Jeannette Mulherin, President
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E. Hunt, Andrea Johnson, Theresa Kane,
RSM, Martha Ann Kirk, CCVI, Anthony
Padovano, Donna Quinn, OP, Rosemary
Radford Ruether

SCHEDULE

Friday, 18 September, 2015

- 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM:** Academic Seminar sessions with Mary E. Hunt, Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza, Shannen Dee Williams. (*General Session - Salon A - F*)
- 12:00 - 2 PM:** Free time for lunch
- 1-1:50 PM:** Caucuses and Workshops:
Bearing Witness to Women's Empowerment: Cathy Huyghe and Sr. Christine Fernando (*Franklin 6*)
Speaking out with a Common, Unified Voice: A Message from Joan Chittister: presented by Catholic Church Reform International (*Franklin 9 & 10*)
The Words We Say: We Say What We Mean: Maureen Fiedler and Dolly Pomerleau (*Franklin 8*)
Solidarity with Women in Latin America – Community Lending Pools Make a Difference!: Grace Garvey-Hall and Katherine Wojtan (*Franklin 7*)
- 2:00 - 2:50 PM:** Academic Workshops:
From Suppression to Freedom: Dorothy Irvin, Ida Raming, and Joan Houk (*Franklin 8*)
New Research on Mary as Priest: Ally Kateusz (*Franklin 9 & 10*)
Biotheology of Sex, Gender, and Relationship: Roberta Meehan (*Franklin 7*)
Theology of the Body — Friend or Foe?: Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers, Stephanie Molloy, and Adelina Pecchia (*General Session - Salon A - F*)
Confecting the Pope: a Rehearsal: Victoria Rue and Sibyl Dana Reynolds (*Franklin 6*)
- 3:00 - 5:30 PM:** Special screening of film, *Radical Grace*, followed by Q&A with Sr. Chris Schenk and Rebecca Parrish (*General Session - Salon A - F*)
- 5:30 - 7:00 PM:** Free time for dinner, registration, and visiting exhibits
- 7:00 PM:** Welcome and Opening Ceremony (*General Session - Salon A - F*)
- 7:45 PM:** Sr. Theresa Kane presents the Women of Vision and Courage Award Ceremony
- Evening:** WOC 40th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, 19 September, 2015

- 7:00 - 8 AM:** Sunrise spirituality workshops:
St. Gertrude: Uncovering Her Path to Sacramental Prayer: Anne McCarthy (*Franklin 9 & 10*)
Roman Catholic Women Priests Liturgical celebration (*General Session - Salon A - F*)
Friends, Allies and Authority: Colette Joyce, Luca Badini, and Christina Rees (*Franklin 8*)
- 8:30 - 8:45 AM:** Morning Prayer
- 8:45 - 9:45 AM:** Keynote address: Tina Beattie: "Her Dark Materials" (*General Session - Salon A - F*)
- 9:45 - 10:35 AM:** Workshops:
Dancing through Closed Doors: what to do when you're a woman called to ordination: Jacqueline Straub, Colette Joyce, and Katharine Salmon (*Franklin 9 & 10*)
The Unfinished Business of Vatican II: the Ecofeminist Theology of Elizabeth A. Johnson: Marian Ronan and Jamie Manson (*Franklin 7*)
What You Have Done For The Least of Mine: Incorporating Transgender Justice into Catholic Reform Work: Bob Shine and Sr. Jeannine Gramick (*Franklin 8*)
Integrating Catholics Feminist perspectives on new strategies and challenges for women's human rights: A view from Mexico: Maria Mejia, Dr. Amparo Espinosa Rugarcia, and Evelyn Aldaz (*Franklin 6*)
Women and Leadership in Early Christianity: What can sociology and archeology tell us? Christine Schenk. (*General Session - Salon A - F*)
- 10:35 - 11:00 AM:** Break

Saturday, 19 September, 2015 (continued)

- 11:00 - 12:30 PM:** Survivor Justice and Ending Violence Against Women, with Barbara Blaine, Virginia Saldanha, Mari Steed, and Shannen Dee Williams, moderated by Sheila Peiffer (*General Session - Salon A - F*)
- 12:30-2 PM:** Free time and exhibits
- 2 - 2:20 PM:** Gary Macy: "The Hidden History of Women's Ordination" (*General Session - Salon A - F*)
- 2:20 - 3:45 PM:** "Break the Silence" - Priest panel moderated by Kristina Keneally with Fr. Tony Flannery, Fr. Roy Bourgeois, Paul Collins, and Fr. Jack McClure (*General Session - Salon A - F*)
- 3:45 - 4:15 PM:** Break
- 4:15 - 5:05 PM:** Workshops:
- Women Deacons are not Women Priests: Phyllis Zagano; (*General Session - Salon A - F*)
- Inclusive and Empowered: The Women Priests Movement, Renewing the Church Now: Jennifer O'Malley, Mary Theresa Streck, Bridget Mary Meehan, and Eileen McCafferty DiFranco (*Franklin 9 & 10*)
- Imagery Promoting Racism in Gospel Literature: Tracy Garrison-Feinberg, Olivia Doko, and Jane Via (*Franklin 8*)
- Worshiping in the Onion Fields: A Church of the Undocumented: Chava Redonnet and Santiago Herrera (*Franklin 7*)
- Complementarity: A New Name for an Old Patriarchal Tool: Deb Rose-Milavec (*Franklin 6*)
- 5:15 - 5:35 PM:** Ursula King: "Speaking Out with One Voice," sponsored by Catholic Church Reform International (*General Session - Salon A - F*)
- 5:35 - 7:30 PM:** Dinner and free time, visit exhibits, optional "Pheminist Philadelphia Tour" (*Sign-up at registration*)
- 7:30 - 8:00 PM:** Evening Reception in Plenary Hall
- 8:00 PM:** Equal in Faith: Interfaith panel moderated by Sr. Maureen Fiedler with Christina Rees, Rebecca Alpert, Asra Nomani, Patricia Fresen & Kate Kelly (*General Session - Salon A - F*)

Sunday, 20 September, 2015

- 8:45 - 9:45 AM:** Astrid Lobo Gajiwala: "The Gender Policy of India: A Blueprint for Partnership" (*General Session - Salon A - F*)
- 10:00 - 11:30 AM:** Inclusive Liturgy: Homilists Jamie Manson and Patricia Fresen; (*General Session - Salon A - F*)
- 11:30 AM - 1 PM:** Free time for lunch
- 1 - 2:15 PM:** Keynote address with Sr. Teresa Forcades (*General Session - Salon A - F*)
- 3:30 PM:** Witnessing walk through Philadelphia with Catholic reform groups (*Gather in lobby*)

'Pheminist Philadelphia'

a walking tour led by a local professional guide. Enjoy the best of Philadelphia's sights and its history of welcoming independent women!

You will hear about women leaders in colonial times, Revolutionary women and Betsy Ross; and tour the stomping grounds of women activists of all stripes, including the first women ordained in the US Episcopal church. Visit the site of the first women's medical college, and find out the real reason the Liberty Bell became an icon of freedom. At Independence Hall, see the birthplace of the U.S. and how language shapes liberty.

Sign up at the registration desk by 11am on Saturday 19th and bring \$15 cash which includes one ticket on the Metro system to start the tour as well as a carry out dinner to eat along the way. Tour starts at 5:45pm and will be back before 7:30pm. Walking for over an hour at a steady pace.

SPEAKERS

Rabbi Rebecca Alpert, Senior Associate Dean and Professor of Religion, College of Liberal Arts, Temple University.



Tina Beattie, British theologian, writer, and broadcaster. She is the Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Roehampton in London and Director of the Digby Stuart Research Centre for Religion, Society and Human Flourishing.



Barbara Blaine, founder and president of Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP), a national advocacy group for survivors of clerical sexual abuse.



Roy Bourgeois, social justice advocate, Nobel Peace Prize nominee and founder of the School of the Americas (SOA) Watch. He served as a Roman Catholic priest for forty years until he was expelled for refusing to recant his support for women's ordination.



Paul Collins, Australian historian, broadcaster, and religious writer. In March 2001 he resigned from his role as a Catholic priest due to a dispute with the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith over his book, *Papal Power*.



Christine Fernando, Sri Lankan sister and tireless advocate working to end violence against women.

Maureen Fiedler, Sister of Loretto and host of *Interfaith Voices*, a public radio show. She has been involved in interfaith activities for more than three decades as an active participant in coalitions working for social justice, racial and gender equality, and peace.



Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, feminist theologian, writer, and Stendahl Professor of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. She is credited for coining the word "kyriarchy" in her book *But She Said: Feminist Practices of Biblical Interpretation*.



Tony Flannery, Irish Redemptorist priest and writer threatened by the Vatican with excommunication for his support of the discussion on women's ordination.



Teresa Forcades, nicknamed "Europe's most radical nun" is a Catalan physician, a Benedictine sister and social activist. Her international reputation includes her politics on Catalan independence, her criticism of the pharmaceutical industry, and her writings on misogyny in the Roman Catholic Church.



Patricia Fresen, South African writer and Roman Catholic theologian. Dr. Fresen was excommunicated and expelled from her Dominican order following her ordination with Roman Catholic Womenpriests.



Astrid Lobo Gajiwala, is a well-known scientist, feminist theologian and writer. She has been a Consultor for the Indian bishops' CBCI Commission for Women since 1992 and helped draft the Gender Policy of the Catholic Church of India.



Mary Hunt, feminist theologian, author, co-founder and co-director of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER) in Silver Spring, MD. She is the editor of *A Guide for Women in Religion: Making Your Way from A to Z*.



Theresa Kane, Mercy sister, professor, and former president of the LCWR who issued a public plea to Pope John Paul II calling on him to include women in all ministries of the church.



Kate Kelly, Mormon feminist and human rights lawyer who was excommunicated for starting the LDS Ordain Women Movement.



Kristina Keneally, liberation theologian, Catholic feminist, and former Australian politician who was the 42nd Premier of New South Wales.



Ursula King, internationally renowned scholar on spirituality, interfaith dialogue, women, and religion.



RADICAL GRACE

Love is blind. Obedience shouldn't be.



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Gary Macy, Gary Macy is the John Nobili, SJ, Professor of Theology and chair of the Religious Studies Department of Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA, and author of several essays and books, including *The Hidden History of the Ordination of Women: Female Clergy in the Medieval West*.



Jamie Manson, writer and nationally recognized media commentator on issues related to LGBT Catholics, young adult Catholics, and women in the church.



Asra Nomani, feminist activist and author of *Standing Alone: An American Woman's Struggle for the Soul of Islam*. Nomani's story is surveyed in the documentary, *The Mosque in Morgantown*.



Christina Rees, well-known writer, broadcaster, and public speaker. She is a member of the General Synod of the Church of England and the former chair of Women and the Church (WATCH).



Virginia Saldanha, feminist, writer, and former executive-secretary of Asian Bishops' Conferences' Office of Laity and Women's Desk. She has a diploma in Theology for Laity from the Bombay Diocesan Seminary.



Christine Schenk, CSJ, is the founder and executive director emerita of FutureChurch. Sr. Christine's scholarly research and activism working for women's equality in the Catholic Church is documented in the film *Radical Grace*.



Mari Steed's Irish birth mother was sent to live and work in one of the Magdalene Laundries where she was forced to give Mari up. Mari was adopted by a suburban Philadelphia couple and when she became an adult she launched a search to find her birth mother.



Shannen Dee Williams, historian of the United States and the black Catholic diaspora. She teaches courses in U.S., African-American, women's, religious, and civil rights histories.



Phyllis Zagano, Catholic scholar and lecturer on contemporary spirituality and women's issues in the church. She is the author of *Holy Saturday: An Argument for the Restoration of the Female Diaconate in the Catholic Church*.



The reason some questions cannot be suppressed, do not go away—regardless how many people think they should—is because the human heart knows they must be asked or have yet to be clearly answered. When that question concerns the quality of the discipleship of half the Catholics in the world, it cries out for attention. And will continue to cry out until the church itself attends to it. Why? Because the model of Jesus with women demands it.

The Women's Ordination Conference honors this question for all our sakes. Thanks to WOC, as church we are able to pursue the question together so that the Church may grow in "wisdom, age--and grace." At Gender, Gospel, and Global Justice support the search. Enable this life-giving conversation to go on.

- Sister Joan Chittister, OSB and Martin Sheen

On *Radical Grace*, premiering at WOW

*This film comes at a major crossroads in the Catholic Church, and the nuns are everything that's right with the institution. They stand with the marginalized, and won't be bullied by the hierarchy. I feel a deep connection to the women featured in *Radical Grace*.*

- Susan Sarandon, Executive Producer

EXHIBITS

Exhibit Schedule:

Set Up: Friday 18 September: 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM
Friday 18 September: 12:00 pm- 3:00 PM- 7:00 PM
Saturday 19 September 19: 7:00 AM- 7:30 PM
Sunday 20 September: 7:00 AM- 10:00 AM
Teardown: Sunday 20 September: 11:00 AM- 4:00 PM

Global Ministries University to offer 20 Continuing Education Units for WOW 2015 participation!

Global Ministries University is an online international contemporary theological learning platform which is inclusive, supportive of creative thinking and honors the sacred in all religions and spiritual traditions.

Attendees must apply by sending a copy of their 2015 WOW conference registration confirmation, along with \$20.00 handling fee plus international postage if required, to GMU, 41593 Winchester Road, Suite 200, Temecula CA 92590 before November 15, 2015.

Qualifying candidates will be mailed a Certificate of Completion within 10 days of receipt. GMU is licensed by the State of California and accredited by International Association of Distance Learning. The continuing education hours are not transferable to regionally accredited institutions or seminaries.

Visit the GMU booth!



WOW 2015 Exhibitors

ACTA Publications
Author: Anne E. Patrick, SNJM
Author: Mary Jeremy Daigler, RSM
Cards by Anne
Catholic Church Reform International
Earlham School of Religion
Equally Blessed
Federation of Christian Ministries (FCM)
FutureChurch
Ginny Remedi Designs: Jewels for the Journey
Global Ministries University
Kelly Ann Brown Foundation
Mary's Pence
Monasteries of the Heart/Benetvision
National Catholic Reporter
Quixote Center
Radical Grace Film
Roman Catholic Women Priests
Saint Joan's International Alliance
Shirley's Tees
Sisters Lea Anne & Consilia Karli
Sophia Inclusive Catholic Community, Sparta, NJ
Southeastern Pennsylvania Women's Ordination Conference
Universidad Iberoamericana, Carolicas por el Derecho a Decid
Women-Church Convergence
Women's Ordination Conference
Women's Ordination Worldwide

WOW Conference Participants!

Receive 10% off all food orders
when you present your

WOW 2015 Conference name badge at:

Maggiano's Little Italy
1201 Filbert Street, Philadelphia
across from the Marriott Downtown

Valid 18-20 September 2015



WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Bearing Witness to Women's Empowerment

Different geographies. Different strategies. But the same intention: to bear witness to the realities of women's struggle and empowerment. Three women share their faith-driven passion, experiences, and lessons from lifetimes of advocacy and action with communities around the world. Journalist Cathy Huyghe will host a conversation with Christine Fernando, Sri Lankan sister and tireless advocate for women.

Biotheology of Sex, Gender, and Relationship

This interactive discussion will focus on demonstrating how sex, gender, and relationship form three inter-related polydimensional continua and how these human facets function together to form the whole person. Dr. Roberta Meehan, M.Div, RCWP and professor of biology will lead this interactive experience, concluding with resources on how to instruct and educate clergy, teachers, and others on the applications of these concepts to theological and clerical issues.

Complementarity: A New Name for an Old Patriarchal Tool

This workshop traces the history of the concept of complementarity in the Catholic Church and examines how it is used today to keep women out of the halls of decision-making, power, and ministry. Deb Rose-Milavec, M.Div. and Executive Director of FutureChurch, will equip Catholics with the knowledge they need to articulate the danger complementarity poses to true equality for women in the Church, as well as identify ways Catholics can educate their bishops and other leaders about this patriarchal tool.

Confecting the Pope: A Rehearsal

Play is a critical aspect to an adult's balanced life, and theater can be a rehearsal for revolution. This workshop, led by Victoria Rue, M.Div., Ph.D, RCWP and Sibyl Dana Reynolds, MA, RCWP bishop emerita will allow participants to use their sacred imagination and their sense of play. Research in neurophysiology, developmental and cognitive psychology, animal behavior, and evolutionary and molecular biology have shown the importance of play in shaping brains, creating competencies, and balancing our emotions. With women's concerns and struggles on the ascendancy globally, we will rehearse the future of a woman Pope, and the Church that would need to exist for her election through storytelling and improvisations. While imaginative exercises will provide both fun and insights, the workshop is also a serious rehearsal for the changes we would like to make in our church.

Dancing through Closed Doors

So you're a Catholic woman called to priestly ministry. Now what? Join in conversation two women who refuse to let the hierarchy determine the path of the Holy Spirit. Jacqueline Straub (Switzerland), Colette Joyce (UK), and Katharine Salmon (UK) and have found creative, faithful, and fruitful ways of living their vocation: dancing through closed doors. This workshop is a space for women holding, nourishing, discerning, and thriving in their priestly calls.

Friends, Allies and Authority

One day the Catholic Church will ordain women as priests, bishops and deacons. One day, when the excluding ends, "traditional" will mean "wherever there is full recognition of baptized and priestly ministries for both women and men." The question is—how do we get there in the best way? How will men and women become friends and allies to exercise authority in Jesus' name? How are you contributing? Begin your day with some encouragement! Sharing and discussion facilitated by Colette Joyce, Pastoral Assistant in a Catholic parish in the UK and Ph.D. student, Dr Luca Badini Confalonieri, Director of the Wijngaards Institute for Catholic Research, and Christina Rees, CBE, who successfully campaigned for women's ordination in the Church of England.

From Suppression to Freedom

Explore Canon Law, Vatican II documents, and parallel works by theologians and archaeologists to trace the Roman Catholic practice of suppressing women, and discuss historical and modern strategies used to challenge them. With years of experience and expertise Dr. Dorothy Irvin, Dr. Ida Raming, Joan Houk, M.Div., will lead this discussion to a hopeful and empowered place for women in the Roman Catholic Church.

Imagery Promoting Racism in Gospel Literature

This workshop will explore language and imagery from the first century gospels, especially the gospel of John, which promotes a theology of God that implies racism and systems of oppression. Additionally, Tracy Garrison-Feinberg, Olivia Doko, MA, and Jane Via, JD, Ph.D., will highlight the language in the gospels that has historically promoted anti-Judean/Jewish/Semitic thought and actions. The language to be discussed continues to be used by Christians to evoke fear and justify anti-Semitic and racist attitudes, beliefs, and violence toward Jewish people and people of color. The new cosmology supports a new language about God, one that does not promote racism.

continued

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Inclusive and Empowered: The Women Priests Movement, Renewing the Church Now

From California to Germany, from Canada to Columbia, the people of God are discovering inclusive, collegial ways to worship in Spirit-empowered communities that honor the dignity of all people. Discover the diverse ways women priests and their communities are living the prophetic vision of a renewed model of church in the 21st century. This interactive workshop gives a visual overview of worldwide, diverse worshiping communities developed by women priests and challenges participants to live the gospel call of justice as they began to form their own communities of faith. Led by Roman Catholic women priests, Jennifer O'Malley, Mary Theresa Streck, Bridget Mary Meehan, and Eileen McCafferty DiFranco.

Integrating Catholic Feminist Perspectives on New Strategies and Challenges for Women's Human Rights: A View from Mexico

This panel will be an opportunity to discuss particularities of the struggle to defend women's human rights from a Catholic pro-choice perspective in Mexico. Dr. Amparo Espinosa Rugarcía will discuss the results of a focus group of Catholic Mexican women on Pope Francis, as well as the paradox of a Latin American Pope for Mexican Catholic feminists. María Mejía will speak on the importance of preserving the Lay State tradition as an enabling environment for the exercise of women's and youth human rights, as well as the laying of bridges with the human rights community and concrete forms of collaboration. Evelyn Aldaz will present an animated series "Catolicadas," used as a popular communication strategy to educate Catholics about progressive feminist perspectives in Catholicism.

New Research on Mary as Priest

The first purpose is to open our hearts and minds and forget everything the Church ever told us about the demure mother of Jesus. The second purpose is to experience textual and iconographic artifacts from early Christianity and Late Antiquity that depicted Mary as a priest or bishop. Ally Kateusz will share her emerging research on Mary and guide the discussion, with highlights of depictions of Christian co-priests during this era.

St. Gertrude: Uncovering Her Path to Sacramental Prayer

Saint Gertrude the Great of Helfta, a 13th-century German Benedictine, mystic, and theologian forged a path of unmediated sacramental prayer experiences that women and men looking for new models would be surprised to uncover. Gertrude wrote prayer exercises using the sacraments that are incarnational, and earthy, using images and symbols of water, fire, oil, light, and the human body. These experiences are between the person and Jesus, unmediated by clergy or religious authority. A love mystic, Gertrude had a deep sacramental spirituality despite the teaching of her day that emphasized unworthiness. The sacraments were controlled, regulated, and discouraged in her day. Anne McCarthy, OSB, member of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, is on staff at Benetvision (www.joanchittister.org) and Monasteries of the Heart will lead this creative and sacramental workshop, including a prayer experience with St. Gertrude as a trail guide, attempting to rediscover her method for our time.

Solidarity with Women in Latin America – Community Lending Pools Make a Difference!

This workshop, led by Katherine Wojtan and Grace Garvey-Hall of Mary's Pence, will reflect on how the women in Central America are deeply affected by the poverty and injustice created by the legacy of past armed conflicts, and current effects of the drug trade, machismo cultures, and gang violence. Without money to call their own, women have little voice. Over the last seven years Mary's Pence has been partnering with nine women's networks in six different Latin American countries to create locally owned community lending pools. We will share our learning from traveling this path of solidarity, and lead a discussion on how we can bring some of these lessons on 'economía solidaria' into our own lives.

Speaking Out with a Common, Unified Voice

Catholic Church Reform International (CCRI) takes on the call of Sr. Joan Chittister: "...Until we raise a common voice, we will not only not be heard, we will not even be listened to... My hope is that by speaking out together – a strong chorus of calls for reform – we can provide a common, a clear, a strong and ongoing voice for the yet incomplete vision of Vatican II." Join director Rene Reid and CCRI leaders in exploring how to make the voices of the people of God effective and heard.

continued

The Unfinished Business of Vatican II: The Ecofeminist Theology of Elizabeth A. Johnson

In this workshop we will explore the ecofeminist theology of Sister Elizabeth A. Johnson as the continuation of three areas of Catholic business that remained unfinished after Vatican II: the relationship between the horizontal and the vertical, the pivotal significance of creation in Catholic teaching, and the role of women in the Church. Marian Ronan, Jack Downey, and Jamie Manson will identify some of the unfinished business of Vatican II, provide an overview of Johnson's ecofeminist theology, and explore how Johnson's theology can help to galvanize Catholic direct action for climate justice.

The Words We Say: We Say What We Mean

This workshop led by Sr. Maureen Fiedler, host of National Public Radio's Interfaith Voices and Dolly Pomerleau, co-founder of the Quixote Center and Women's Ordination Conference will explore how language reflects our worldview and why being inclusive is important at all levels.

Theology of the Body — Friend or Foe?

If male and female are created in the image and likeness of God, sharing the same meaning of the human body, then what does this say about the Church's current stance on women's ordination? How does the sacramentality of male and female bodies, as stated clearly in the theology of the body, challenge the tradition's longstanding assumptions? What role does the experience of women who feel called and the "sacramental" experience of those receiving ministry from women contribute to such a theological anthropology? Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers M.T.S., Stephanie Molloy, M.Div., M.Th., and Rev. Adelina Pecchia, M.T.S., D.Min. (in progress) will explore how Pope John Paul II and his theology of the body could well turn out to be a surprising ally in the women's ordination question.

What You Have Done for the Least of Mine: Incorporating Transgender Justice into Catholic Reform Work

This interactive session with Sr. Jeannine Gramick, SL, and Bob Shine of New Ways Ministry examines how Catholic reform advocates can ensure transgender concerns are present in our work. This session, open to all, will help navigate concepts and terms related to trans communities and, through participant discussion, brainstorm about how our work can become more inclusive in both the ends we seek and our means in pursuing church reform.

Women and Leadership in Early Christianity: What Can Sociology and Archaeology Tell Us?

Women's prophetic leadership in early Christianity challenged western cultural norms that marginalized women and the poor. This presentation uncovers the pioneering roots of that leadership, including recent findings from sociology and archaeology. While much scholarly ink has been spilled tracking the decline of women's public leadership in the early church, what is easily overlooked is that Christianity's rapid expansion is largely due to the domestic networking and evangelizing leadership of women. Christine Schenk, CSJ, MS, M.Div., columnist for the National Catholic Reporter, and founding director of FutureChurch will present her research and analysis of fourth century tombs of Christian women leaders.

Women Deacons are Not Women Priests

Women have served the church as deacons throughout its history, sometimes ordained and sometimes not. We know that women were ordained as deacons. We know that women image Christ. Why has this vocation been closed to women in the West for nearly 800 years? The history of ordained women deacons combined with the church's affirmation that all persons are created in the image and likeness of God give ironclad proof that the church has the power and authority to restore women to this ordained ministry. In this workshop Dr. Phyllis Zagano, leading expert on women in the diaconate in the Catholic Church, will review the current state of the discussion regarding the restoration of women to the ordained diaconate.

Worshiping in the Onion Fields: A Church of the Undocumented

Four years ago, Chava Redonnet began celebrating weekly Mass with a group of migrant farm workers in the parking lot in front of their little house, surrounded by onion fields in Rochester, New York. Through deportations, immigration raids, I-9 audits, job losses, court appearances, health issues, deplorable living conditions, and exhausting work (as much as ninety hours a week in planting time), the Oscar Romero Inclusive Catholic Church has found a way to be church together, and bless the world around them. Since 2014 this Church has obtained a farmer's permission to use a vacant migrant dwelling as a location for Mass. Santiago Herrera, born in Mexico, and has worked in the United States much of his adult life is a member of the church community and is currently a farm worker, planting, tending, harvesting, and packing onions, cabbages, and beets.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our deepest gratitude goes to our amazing
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made this extraordinary effort and landmark conference possible.
We are blessed by your generous support!
Thank you!

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Catholic Church Reform International: International's mission is to embrace our baptismal rights and responsibilities by speaking out with a united voice, thereby actualizing transformative change in the Catholic Church; and to work toward the creation of a Church Community based on the Gospel values of inclusivity, justice and love.

Kelly Ann Brown Foundation: The Kelly Ann Brown Foundation remembers and honors the legacy of Kelly Ann Brown by supporting her passions: creative education, the arts, sustainable food, social justice and the research and development of effective treatment for alcohol and drug additions.

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SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER

Liturgy of St Brigid of Kildare

Brigid founded her community in Kildare, which was noted for generosity and hospitality. She led a group of women to become nuns and they asked Bishop Mel to consecrate them. The bishop saw the Spirit of God descend on her, and, laying hands on her, said "I have no power in this matter. God has ordained her," So Brigid was ordained.

We say together:

This day is a new day

That has never been before

Enter Christ-

We have joy in your coming

You have given us life

And we welcome your coming!

(Short silence)

We say antiphonally (left to right of the room)

(left) I bind unto myself today

The strong name of the Trinity

(right) I humbly praise the awful name

The three in one, the one in three

(left) Of whom all nature hath creation-

Eternal God, Spirit, Word

(right)) Praise to the God of my salvation

Salvation is of Christ our God!

(Leader) We greet our sisters and brothers in the name of the Trinity:

Brigid, we greet you in the name of the Trinity!

(Then turn to our neighbors)

I greet you (name) in the name of the Trinity. Welcome!

Psalm for St Brigid's day (antiphonally) Psalm 92

It is good to give thanks to God,

And to sing praises to your name

To declare your loving-kindness in the morning

And your faithfulness every night

On an instrument of ten strings,

On the lute and on the harp,

With harmonious sound.

For you, O God, have made me glad through your work

I will triumph in the works of your hands.

Reading from St Brigid:

I should like a table of the choicest food for the family of heaven. Let the ale be made from the fruits of faith, and the food of forgiving love.

I should welcome the poor to my feast, for they are God's children, I should welcome the sick to my feast, for they are God's joy. Let the poor sit with Jesus at the highest place, and the sick dance with the angels.

God bless the poor, God bless the sick, And bless our human race.

God bless our food, God bless our drink, All homes, O God, embrace.

(From Forward to the *Promised Community: Streams of Living Water*, 1998)

Music: Hymn to St Brigid

"In honour of St Brigid" (composed by Rev. Liam Lawton, January 1993)

—

There travels forth from the passages of History
A woman's voice that is heard across the plains,
That calls once more, for a people of new vision
To heal our wounds and to green our Earth again,
To heal our wounds and green our Earth again.

She spreads her cloak 'cross the land and far beyond it,
A shadow cast on a people void of hope.
She speaks of Peace and the chains that weigh upon it
And there her light shall glimmer from the oak
And all that binds the people shall be broke.

So Light the Fire of God's desire
Within all hearts, let sorrows end.
So Light the Fire of God's desire
God's chosen one, Let Peace on us descend.

And we today need a prophet of new vision,
To lift the low—the forgotten child to heed,
To be the voice of the wounded and the weary,
To plant anew a fresh and peaceful seed
To dance the dance of God's own Blessed Bríd.

So Light the Fire of God's desire...

SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER

We Say Together:

This is Brigid who loved the poor,
And gave away all she could spare
And would have given everything
If everything was hers to share.
She gave her love to God as well.
In her community at Kildare,
All souls were welcome there to feast
On simple food, and all for love of Him
Who gave unstintingly for us.
His love, His heart, His dying blood.
Her *utmost* love was love *returned*.

Let us pray: (extending our hands toward to others)

The compassion of God be upon us
At this conference and on all our discussions
The compassion of God, the God of life
The compassion of Christ be upon you
My sisters and brothers
The compassion of the Christ of love
The compassion of the Spirit of grace
The compassion of the sacred three be upon us
Protect us and preserve us

We say together (linking hands or extending hands sideways to one another.

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the God of peace to you. Amen!

By Fiona MacLeod. Music by Bill Douglas, used with permission

Prayers taken from Liturgy of St Brigid, Celtic Daily Prayer from the Northumbria Community (2005), a community of lay and ordained men and women ministering mainly in the United Kingdom.



WOW 2015 Conference Prayer

We are mindful that Your Spirit, Loving Creator, has awakened in us and in those upon whose shoulders we stand, an awareness of Your Life and Voice within and around us. We listen, clothed in the sacred garments of the Good News of Jesus the Christ. We listen, assured that You have formed and gifted our hearts and minds for all that calls us forward. We listen, believing with gratitude, that you have prepared us for this moment in history when women shall stand firmly and fully in any and every dimension of ministry.

Help us, those who plan this important conference, and those who plan to participate in its offerings, to drink deeply of Your Wisdom and Vision as revealed in the Gospel. May that Cup of the Gospel assist us as we gather from around the globe to create a conference which will offer ways to seek and proclaim, and thereby reveal the Gospel pathway of justice for women and men, their children, people of faith everywhere, and for our living planet that nourishes all life dwelling upon it.

Our hope and our belief is that Your Justice will arise anew in every person attending this conference, and that this same Justice, in the power of Love, will fill willing hearts with courage and commitment to carry forth Love's embrace around this planet to wherever and whomever is in need of Love. Help us and all people whom we serve to immerse ourselves in the Gospel.

Amen

SUNDAY EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

The Call to Gather

A gathering call to all regions of the world.

As your color is called, please stand in body or spirit, raise your ribbon, and place it on yourself as a stole.

Light Green ribbons: Those with light green ribbons please stand in body or spirit.

We welcome and are in solidarity with all who work for justice in North America/Turtle Island.

All: **Welcome! And Peace!** (Applause)

Forest Green ribbons: All with forest green ribbons.... We welcome and are in solidarity with all who work for justice in South America.

All: **Welcome! And Peace!** (Applause)

Orange ribbons: Orange ribbons.... We welcome and are in solidarity with all who work for justice in Africa.

All: **Welcome! And Peace!** (Applause)

Red ribbons: Red ribbons.... We welcome and are in solidarity with all who work for justice in Asia.

All: **Welcome! And Peace!** (Applause)

Pink ribbons: Pink ribbons.... We welcome and are in solidarity with all who work for justice in Australia.

All: **Welcome! And Peace!** (Applause)

Purple ribbons: Purple ribbons.... We welcome and are in solidarity with all who work for justice in Europe.

All: **Welcome! And Peace!** (Applause)

Gold ribbons: Gold ribbons We welcome and are in solidarity with all people and places worldwide who need justice.

All: **Welcome! And Peace!** (Applause)

Blue ribbons: Blue ribbons.... We welcome and are in solidarity with all who work for justice in the Cosmos.

All: **Welcome! And Peace!** (Applause)

Table Conversants: We remember our women ancestors / all those marginalized, / named and unnamed, / who throughout time have used their ministries to transform the world. / We call upon them to help us discover within ourselves / the power of Divine Wisdom / and the ways to use it to bring about gender justice / gospel justice / and global justice.

Song: Spirit of Our Elders by Sr. Kathy Sherman, CSJ
(Courtesy of www.ministryofthearts.org, Congregation of St. Joseph)

Song: Spirit of Our Elders

Spirit of Our Elders

K. Sherman, CSJ
© 1993



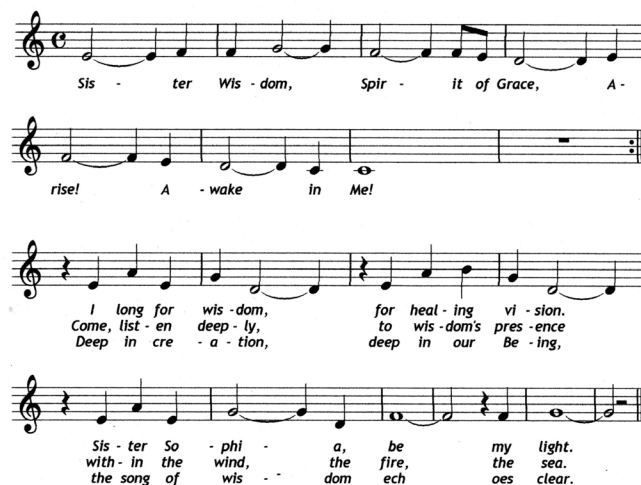
Prayer with Gesture: "Come Wisdom Sophia"

[Modeled by Table Conversants]

Song: "Sister, Wisdom" by Jan Novotka

Sister, Wisdom

Jan Novotka



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Litany of Women

(Cantor) Holy Spirit of **MARY MAGDALENE**, the first to announce Jesus' resurrection, apostle to the apostle.

Sung Refrain: **Sister Wisdom, Spirit of Grace, Arise! Awake in Us!**

(Cantor) Holy Spirit of **JUNIA**, a woman apostle imprisoned; **PHOEBE**, a presider of a local church; **PRISCA**, a minister who supported herself; **THECLA** and the other women leaders of the early house church movement; and all women leaders of Eucharists in a discipleship of equals.

Sung Refrain: **Sister Wisdom, Spirit of Grace, Arise! Awake in Us!**

(Cantor) Holy Spirit of **TERESA OF ÁVILA**, **CATHERINE OF SIENA**, **THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX**, **HILDEGARD OF BINGEN**, Doctors of our Church, who challenged the corruption of the institutional church.

SUNDAY EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

Sung Refrain: **Sister Wisdom, Spirit of Grace, Arise!
Awake in Us!**

(Cantor) Holy Spirit of **SAINT MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN, SAINT MARY MACKILLOP, MARY WARD, SAINT JOAN OF ARC, MARGARET ANNA CUSACK AND ALL EXCOMMUNICATED WOMEN; SOR JUANA DE LA CRUZ, CARMEL MCENROY, MYRA POOLE, IVONE GEBARA, AND ALL SILENCED WOMEN, AND ELIZABETH LANG, THERESA MAXIS DUCHEMIN, LOUISE LEARS, JOAN CHITTISTER, MARGARET FARLEY, MARY DALY, JEANNINE GRAMICK, THERESA KANE and OTHER DANGEROUS VISIONARIES LIKE US.**

Sung Refrain: **Sister Wisdom, Spirit of Grace, Arise!
Awake in Us!**

(Cantor) Holy Spirit of **FEMINIST MINISTERS and THEOLOGIANs, ALL WHO SPEAK OUT AGAINST OPPRESSION** in all its forms, and **WOMEN WHO BREAK BREAD AND DO JUSTICE.**

Sung Refrain: **Sister Wisdom, Spirit of Grace, Arise!
Awake in Us!**

Let us speak aloud at our table the names of **OTHERS WHO HAVE WORKED FOR GENDER JUSTICE, GOSPEL JUSTICE, AND GLOBAL JUSTICE.** *(Add other names.)*

Sung Refrain: **Sister Wisdom, Spirit of Grace, Arise!
Awake in Us!**

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (7:23—25a).

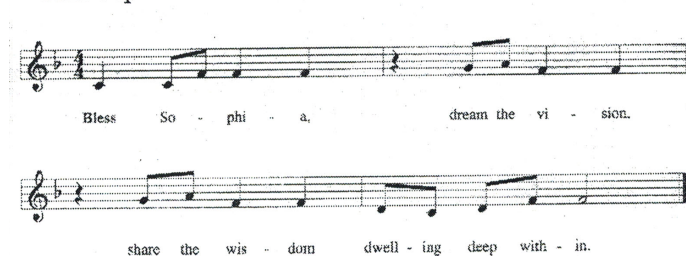
For within Wisdom is a spirit of intelligence and holiness, unique and unmistakable:

“My mother never made me do anything for my brothers, like serve them. I think that’s an important lesson, especially for the Latino culture, because the women are expected to be the ones that serve and cook and whatever. Not in our family. Everybody was equal.”

–Dolores Huerta, labor leader, cofounder of the United Farm Workers

Chant: **Bless Sophia** / from *Bring The Feast: Songs from the Re-Imagining Community*, Pilgrim Press, 1998.

Bless Sophia



She is subtle, dynamic, perceptive, unclouded.

“We have a sacred responsibility as women to pursue this vision. We really can stand strong and stand firm and say gender equality is a gift from God. As martyrs of old, we’re willing to die for it, but more importantly, I’m willing to live for it. This is a God-given responsibility in the 21st century to move toward gender equality in all phases of life.”

–Theresa Kane, former president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)

Chant: **Bless Sophia / dream the vision / share the wisdom / dwelling deep within**

Wisdom is compassionate, sharp, compelling. She is generous, steadfast, and loving toward all that lives.

“In a century that has seen rape as a part of military strategy, poverty as the result of lack of reproductive choice, industries based on the economic exploitation of sex, race joined with gender and class to determine the employment options of groups, the development of a sexual ethic cannot be a trivial concern.”

–Margaret Farley, *Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics*

Chant: **Bless Sophia / dream the vision / share the wisdom / dwelling deep within**

Wisdom is faithful, faultless, serene, and powerful, pervading every intelligent, pure and most subtle spirit.

“Brought up in cultures that do not teach us to love one another, we are women who love women. No one has all the keys to that mystery but we know that it is delightful and sacred, like all love. If we are lucky, we build lives of health and integrity in couples, as groups, and in communities. As time passes and cultures change, our love is far more accepted, but it has not always been that way and some of us have the scars to prove it. Nevertheless, we love as we will, and the world is better for it.”

–Mary E. Hunt, Catholic feminist liberation theologian

Chant: **Bless Sophia / dream the vision / share the wisdom / dwelling deep within**

She moves more swiftly than motion itself.

“The extremists are afraid of books and pens, the power of education frightens them. They are afraid of women.”

–Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize 2014, advocate for girl’s rights to education

Chant: **Bless Sophia / dream the vision / share the wisdom / dwelling deep within**

SUNDAY EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

Soloist: verse 1; All sing verses 2, 3, 4

She is so pure that She pervades and permeates all living things.

"[E]verywhere the Holy Spirit is breaking through - as the Holy Spirit did in Rome in the 60's. In Asia, Buddhist women are demanding ordination and the right to make the sacred mandalas. In India, women are beginning to do the sacred dances and light the sacred fires. In Judaism, women study Torah and now carry the scrolls and read the scriptures and lead the congregations."

—Joan Chittister, First WOW Conference, Dublin, Ireland, 2001

Chant: Bless Sophia / dream the vision / share the wisdom / dwelling deep within

She is the breath of God, the pure light of God's glory.

"That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns... And ain't I a woman?"

— Sojourner Truth, "Ain't I a Woman"


Chant: Bless Sophia / dream the vision / share the wisdom / dwelling deep within

Gospel: The Magnificat "Canticle of the Turning" by Rory Cooney, Gary Daigle, Theresa Donohoo

Stand in body or spirit for the Gospel

Canticle of the Turning

Verses



1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who
depths of the past to the end of the age to
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing

wait. You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
be. Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
throne. The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
grasp. This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

Text: Luke 1:46-55; Rory Cooney, b.1952. © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN; Irish traditional, arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952

Homily: Patricia Fresen and Jamie Manson

Table Dialogue Homily

In good Philadelphia Quaker style, turn to someone at your table and take 5 minutes to share your reflection on the readings and words of Patricia and Jamie as they speak to your faith, life experiences, and feminist ministry.

Music: Instrumental

Prayers of the People | Bidding Prayers

All baptized persons are called to act as priestly people, to bring the needs of our world before the Holy One, to make intercessions, and to pour spiritual strength and support upon those most in need. So we pray: Holy Wisdom, hear our prayer.

Holy Wisdom, hear our prayer

SUNDAY EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

We pray with our faith communities, that together we listen to the call of the Holy Spirit and act courageously and prophetically to create new forms of church.

Holy Wisdom, hear our prayer

We pray for the institutional Catholic Church, that the Vatican will listen to the Spirit and end interdicts, silencing, and excommunications, and welcome everyone to leadership at the Eucharistic and decision-making tables.

Holy Wisdom, hear our prayer

We pray for world leaders and community organizers, that the Spirit of their Gods may guide them to use their good offices to end wars, bring about peace, shelter the homeless, stop trafficking and rape, feed all who are hungry, foster global community, and protect the cosmos.

Holy Wisdom, hear our prayer

We pray with those in our communities who are marginalized from the institutional church because they are divorced, or have been sexually violated, or belong to diverse families, or image the Divine as LGBTIQ2 people, or follow their conscience on reproductive choice, or support women's equality in the church including ordination.

Holy Wisdom, hear our prayer

We pray with those who are refugees, and with those who are suffering from natural disasters such as droughts, floods, and storms.

Holy Wisdom, hear our prayer

We pause now to remember those who have died, especially those who advocated for women's equality in the church.

(Call out the name of any person you would like to include.)

They are present with us today. May we carry on their legacy.

Holy Wisdom, hear our prayer

Be with us now and always. **Amen.**

Gift Offering

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Please stand in body or spirit.

Table Prayer

Eucharist will take place at table communities. Gluten free bread and grape juice will be blessed and available at all tables.

People Wearing Light Green Ribbon Stoles: May Sophia, the Wisdom of God, be with you

All: **And also with you**

People Wearing Gold Ribbon Stoles: Let us open our hearts and minds

All: **We open them to Holy Wisdom**

People Wearing Blue Ribbon Stoles: Let us give thanks to Wisdom-Sophia

All: **It is right to give thanks and praise**

People Wearing Forest Green Ribbon Stoles: Blessed are you, Holy One of our Ancestors, Source of Life

We thank you for creating a diverse world,

And for making us in your image and likeness:

The image of love, the image of compassion, and the image of beauty.

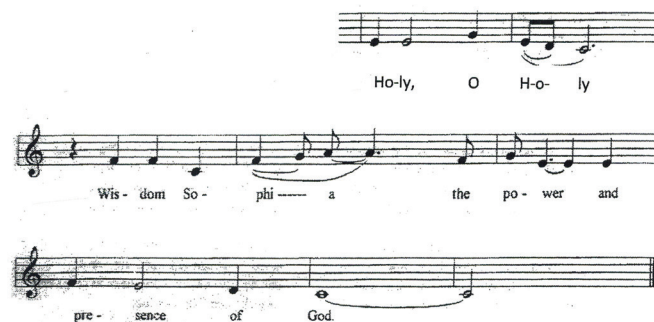
You love us so much

That you call us to be your kindom of priests.

And so we join with all creation and praise you, singing:

Acclamation: "Holy, Holy, Wisdom Sophia, the power and presence of God"

Adapted from "In Your Presence," by Colleen Fulmer, used with permission.



People Wearing Orange Ribbon Stoles: Blessed are you, Holy Wisdom Sophia, Companion on our Journey

We thank you for inviting us to your table

And for preparing a rich banquet for us.

You call us to be your kindom of priests.

And so we join with all creation and praise you, singing:

Acclamation: "Holy, Holy, Wisdom Sophia, the power and presence of God"

People Wearing Red Ribbon Stoles: Blessed are you, God of Sarah, Hagar, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah

We thank you for promising that countless generations would be blessed through a covenant with our foremothers.

You called them to be your kindom of priests.

And so we join with all creation and praise you, singing:

Acclamation: "Holy, Holy, Wisdom Sophia, the power and presence of God"

SUNDAY EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

People Wearing Pink Ribbon Stoles: Blessed are you,
God of Mary who is Mother of Miriam's Child and Sophia's
Prophet

We thank you for embracing our ancestor who agreed to
partner with you

In bringing Jesus to birth.

You called her to be one of your kindom of priests.

And so we join with all creation and praise you, singing:

**Acclamation: "Holy, Holy, Wisdom Sophia, the power
and presence of God"**

People Wearing Purple Ribbon Stoles: Blessed are you,
God of Thecla, Phoebe, Junia, Prisca

We thank you for raising up strong women house church
leaders

to transform our church and world.

You called them to be one of your kindom of priests.

And so we join with all creation and praise you, singing:

**Acclamation: "Holy, Holy, Wisdom Sophia, the power
and presence of God"**

All pray in unison

All: Blessed are you / Divine Wisdom Sophia, /

For you gave us Jesus / who gathered the community for
a meal /

Took bread and fruit of the vine / gave you thanks / and
gave them to all, saying:

[Extend your hands to the bread and juice:]

"Take this, all of you / Eat and drink / This is my body /
which is for you /

This is the cup of life / Remember me"

Pause

All: We remember that You called Jesus to be one of your
kindom of priests.

And so we join with all creation and praise you, singing:

Acclamation: "Holy, Holy, Wisdom Sophia, the power and
presence of God."

**All: Blessed are you / Divine Wisdom Sophia / Spirit of
Justice and Healing /**

We thank you for pouring out your Spirit on this
bread and fruit of the vine / and on us gathered here /

Transform us to heal a fragmented world, to mend
broken hearts, and to feed hungry souls.

Bring the new creation: / The breaking of bread, the
drinking of life, and the doing of justice /

You call us to be your kindom of priests /

And so we join with all creation and praise you,
singing:

**Acclamation: "Holy, Holy, Wisdom Sophia, the power
and presence of God"**

Communion

Pass bread and drink around your table.

Reflection

Together we will spend a moment of silence.

Closing Prayer: Phil 1:3-9

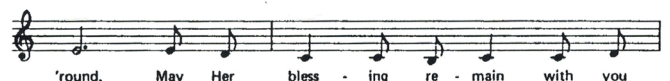
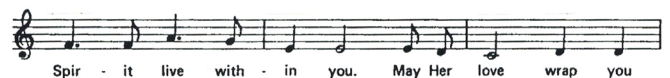
I thank my God whenever I think of you; and every time I
pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you
have helped to spread the Good News from the day you
first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that
the One who began this good work in you will see that it is
finished when the day of Christ Jesus comes. It is only natural
that I should feel like this towards you all, since you have
shared the privileges that have been mine: both my chains
and my work defending and establishing the gospel. You have
a permanent place in my heart.

Song: "Blessing Song" by Miriam Therese Winter, used with
permission.

BLESSING SONG

Sing unaccompanied
♩ = 80

*Words and music by
Miriam Therese Winter*



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SUNDAY EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

Commission to Go Forth

Stand in body or spirit.

Laying on of Hands

Feel the power of Divine Wisdom among us. Look around at the people at your table. This is the time to gather the power of these days and commission one another for feminist ministry—to all beings, to all that is, to Earth, the cosmos, and the cosmic dance of love and justice.

Lay your hand on the shoulder or in the hand of your neighbor, or extend your hand toward them.

Filled with power and dreams,
challenges and commitments,
Let us send one another forth to do feminist ministry.

Divine Wisdom, Sophia Spirit, Filler of Promises,
Bless us, your feminist ministers, to work for gender justice,
gospel justice, and global justice.

Let us respond:

Response: **Bless us!**

When our hope is dim,
When our energies are frazzled.
Refresh us with Your Spirit, Divine Wisdom.
Let us respond:

Response: **Bless us!**

Pour out your Spirit, Wisdom Sophia, on the people with whom we minister.

Pour out your Spirit even on the kyriarchal Church that the whole People of God may benefit from feminist ministries.
Pour out your Spirit on our families and friends that they may offer us loving care, understanding, and support. Let us respond:

Response: **Bless us!**

Greeting of Peace

Let us greet one another with peace and exchange ribbon stoles.

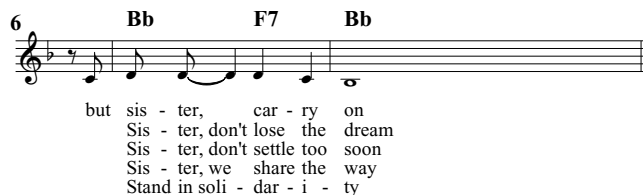
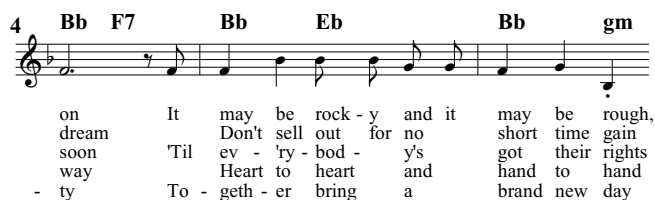


Closing Song: “Sister Carry On” by Carolyn McDade, used with permission.

Sister, Carry On

Carolyn McDade

Carolyn McDade



Repeat first verse at end

Copyright © 1992 by Carolyn McDade
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Liturgy planned and written by Erin Saiz Hanna, Judy Heffernan, Kate McElwee, Diann Neu, Elizabeth Ridley, Susan Roll, Victoria Rue, Katharine Salmon, Josette Vassallo, and Jane Via.

Thanks to the IHM Community and the Corita Arts Center for permission to reprint the Corita quote and artwork.

All Are Welcome

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And
3. Let us build a house where love is found In
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -
5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their

all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,

chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
serve and teach, And live the Word they've
taught and claimed As words with - in the

give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,
new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness
meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,
known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger
Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,

Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the
And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
Is re - vealed in time and space; As we
Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us
Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:

all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Tune: TWO OAKS, 9 6 8 6 8 7 10 with refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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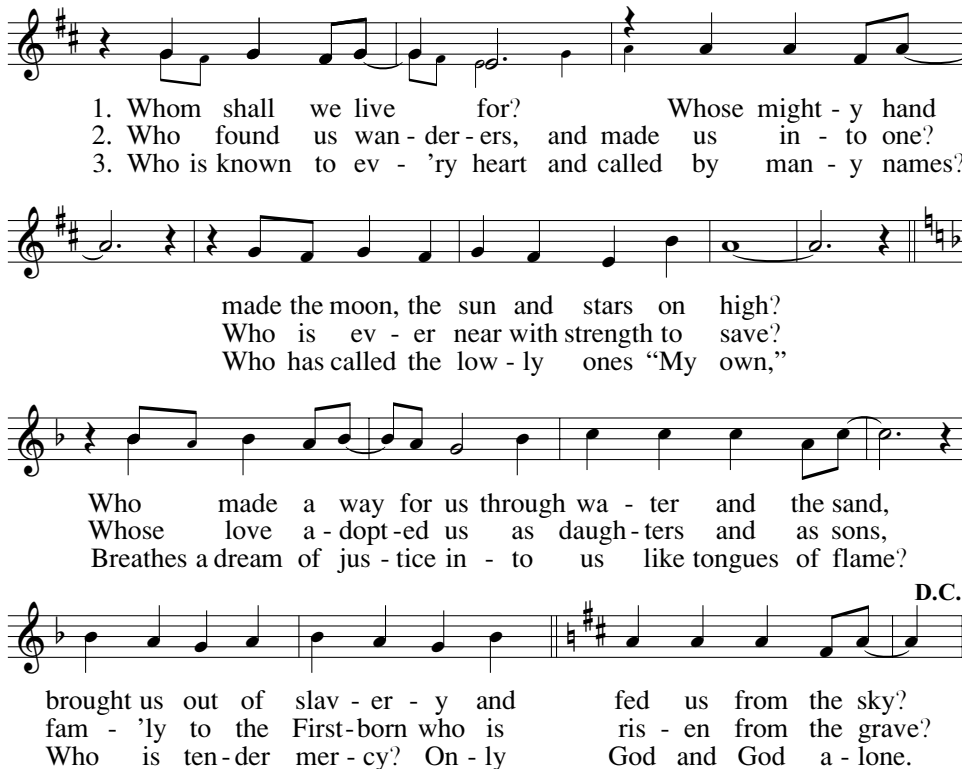
All Things New

Refrain



Sing a new song! Re-joice! The dawn is break-ing,
the earth is wak-ing, its dreams come true. And do you
hear the voice, dark-ness sur-pris-ing, sing in its
ris-ing: "See, I am mak-ing all things new!"

Verses



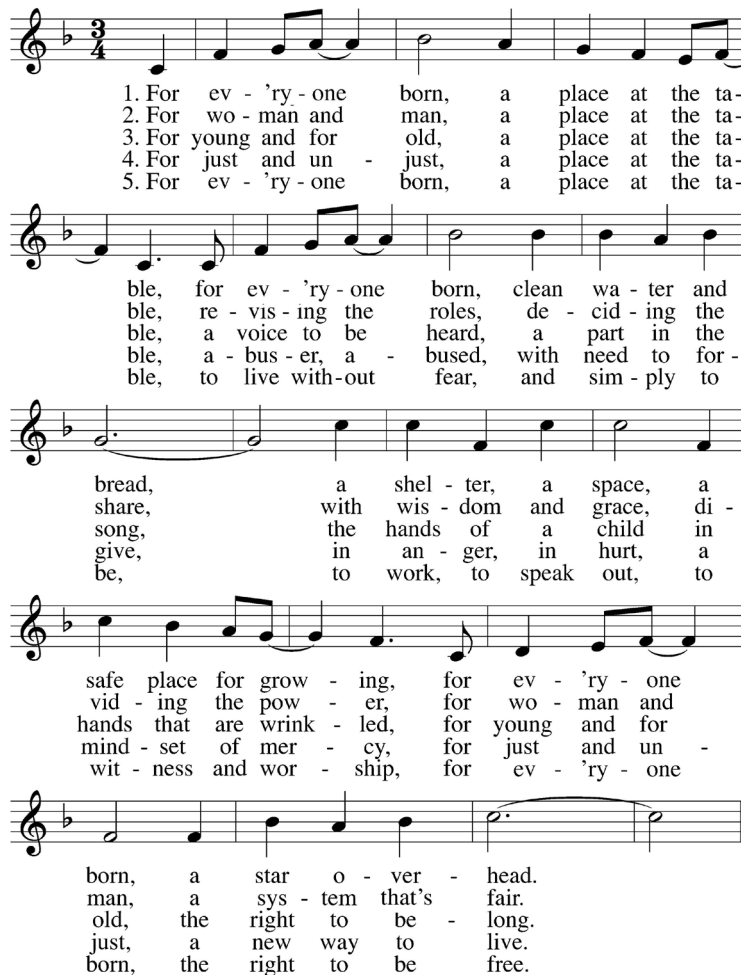
1. Whom shall we live for? Whose might-y hand
2. Who found us wan-der-ers, and made us in-to one?
3. Who is known to ev-'ry heart and called by man-y names?
made the moon, the sun and stars on high?
Who is ev-er near with strength to save?
Who has called the low-ly ones "My own,"
Who made a way for us through wa-ter and the sand,
Whose love a-dopt-ed us as daugh-ters and as sons,
Breathes a dream of jus-tice in-to us like tongues of flame?
D.C.
brought us out of slav-er-y and fed us from the sky?
fam-'ly to the First-born who is ris-en from the grave?
Who is ten-der mer-cy? On-ly God and God a-lone.

Text: Rory Cooney, b.1952
Tune: Rory Cooney, b.1952
© 1993, GIA Publications, Inc.

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

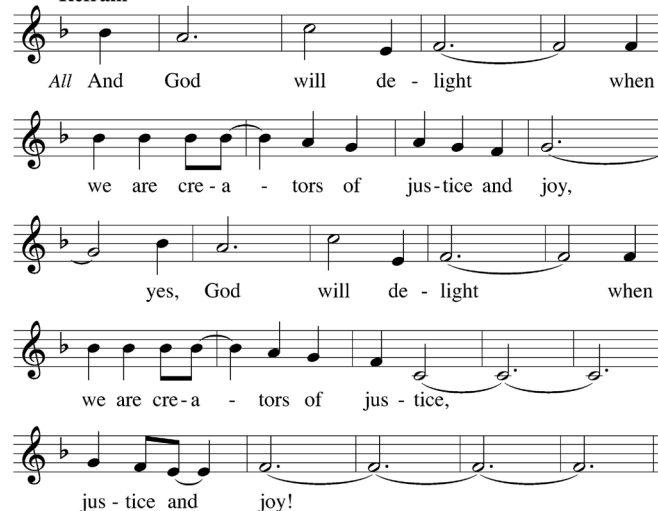
Shirley Erena Murray

Lori True



1. For ev - 'ry - one born, a place at the ta-
 2. For wo - man and man, a place at the ta-
 3. For young and for old, a place at the ta-
 4. For just and un - just, a place at the ta-
 5. For ev - 'ry - one born, a place at the ta-
 ble, for ev - 'ry - one born, clean wa - ter and
 ble, re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the
 ble, a voice to be heard, a part in the
 ble, a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for -
 ble, to live with-out fear, and sim - ply to
 bread, a shel - ter, a space, a
 share, with wis - dom and grace, di -
 song, the hands of a child in
 give, in an - ger, in hurt, a
 be, to work, to speak out, to
 safe place for grow - ing, for ev - 'ry - one
 vid - ing the pow - er, for wo - man and
 hands that are wrink - led, for young and for
 mind - set of mer - cy, for just and un -
 wit - ness and wor - ship, for ev - 'ry - one
 born, a star o - ver - head.
 man, a sys - tem that's fair.
 old, the right to be - long.
 just, a new way to live.
 born, the right to be free.

Refrain

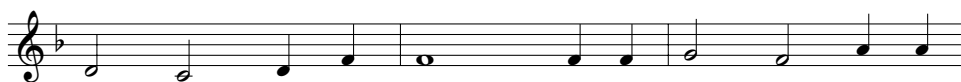


All And God will de - light when
 we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and joy,
 yes, God will de - light when
 we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,
 jus - tice and joy!

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning



1. As a fire is meant for burn - ing With a
2. We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; We are
3. As a green bud in the spring - time Is a



bright and warm-ing flame, So the church is meant for
pil - grims on the way. We are seek - ers; we are
sign of life re - newed, So may we be signs of



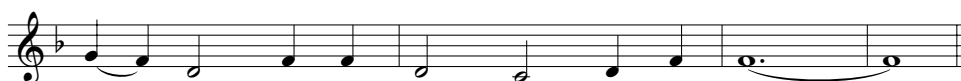
mis - sion, Giv - ing glo - ry to God's name.
giv - ers; We are ves - sels made of clay.
one - ness 'Mid earth's peo - ples, man - y hues.



Not to preach our creeds or cust - oms, But to
By our gen - tle, lov - ing ac - tions, We would
As a rain - bow lights the heav - ens When a



build a bridge of care, We join hands a - cross the
show that Christ is light. In a hum - ble, lis - t'ning
storm is past and gone, May our lives re - flect the




na - tions, Find - ing neigh - bors ev - 'ry - where.
Spir - it, We would live to God's de - light.
ra - diance Of God's new and glor - ious dawn.

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: BEACH SPRING, 8 7 8 7 D; *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. by Marty Haugen, b.1950

ENVÍA TU ESPÍRITU (PSALM 104)

Bob Hurd

Refrain



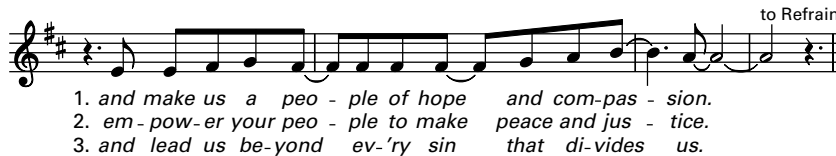
*En - ví - a tu Es - pí - ri - tu, en - ví - a tu Es - pí - ri - tu, en -
ví - a tu Es - pí - ri - tu, se - a re - no - va - da la faz de la tie -
- rra. Se - a re - no - va - da la faz de la tie - rra.

Verses



1. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, burn in our hearts,
2. Wind of prom - ise, wind of change, friend of the poor,
3. Breath of life and ho - li - ness, heal ev - 'ry wound,

to Refrain



1. and make us a peo - ple of hope and com - pas - sion.
2. em - pow - er your peo - ple to make peace and jus - tice.
3. and lead us be - yond ev - 'ry sin that di - vides us.

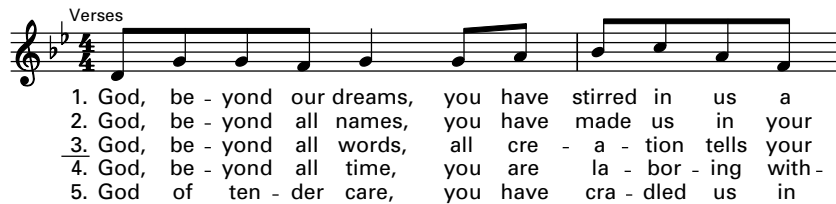
*Refrain translation: "Send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth."

Text: Psalm 104:30; based on the Poetic Sequence for Pentecost. Text and music © 1988, Bob Hurd.
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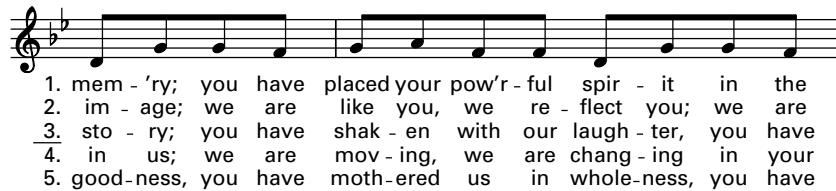
GOD, BEYOND ALL NAMES

Bernadette Farrell

Verses



1. God, be - yond our dreams, you have stirred in us a
2. God, be - yond all names, you have made us in your
3. God, be - yond all words, all cre - a - tion tells your
4. God, be - yond all time, you are la - bor - ing with -
5. God of ten - der care, you have cra - dled us in



1. mem - 'ry; you have placed your pow'r - ful spir - it in the
2. im - age; we are like you, we re - flect you; we are
3. sto - ry; you have shak - en with our laugh - ter, you have
4. in us; we are mov - ing, we are chang - ing in your
5. good - ness, you have moth - ered us in whole - ness, you have

Refrain



1. hearts of hu - man - kind. All a - round us we have
2. wom - an, we are man.
3. trem - bled with our tears.
4. spir - it ev - er new.
5. loved us in - to birth.



known you, all cre - a - tion lives to hold you. In our
liv - ing and our dy - ing we are bring - ing you to birth.

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If You Believe and I Believe

If you be-lieve and I be-lieve And we to-geth - er
 pray, The Ho - ly Spir - it must come down And
 set God's peo - ple free, And set God's peo - ple
 free, And set God's peo - ple free; The
 Ho - ly Spir - it must come down And set God's peo - ple free.

Text: Zimbabwean traditional
 Tune: Zimbabwean traditional; adapt. of English traditional; as taught by Tarasai; arr. by John L. Bell, b.1949

NOW IS THE TIME

Tom Kendzia

Refrain
 Come to us, you who say, "I will not for-get you." Be with us, you
 who say, "Do not be a-fraid." Take hold of us, our hearts, our
 minds, our whole be - ing. Make us your own, now is the time.

Verses

Cantor	All
1. Spir - it of love,	crush the pain of ha - tred.
2. Spir - it of peace,	si - lence tongues of an - ger.
3. Spir - it of faith,	rise a - bove our doubt - ing.

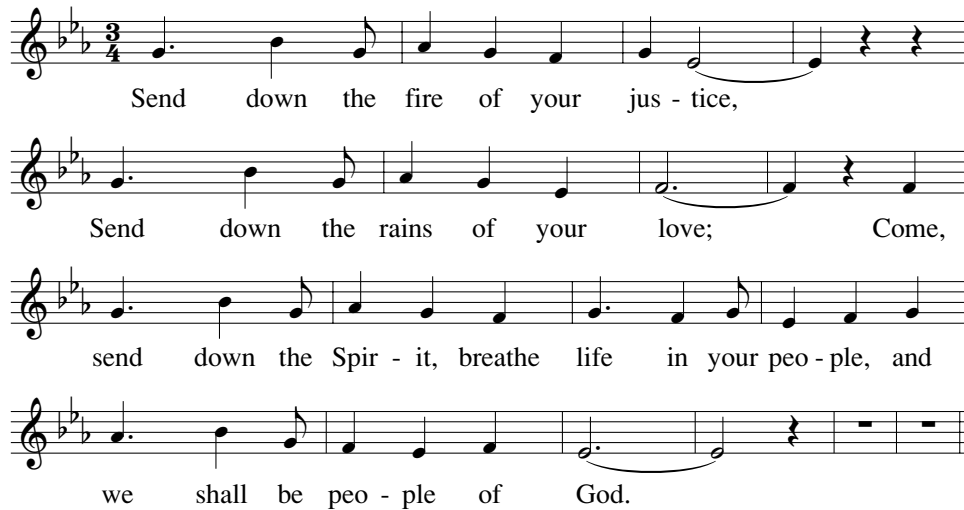
Cantor	All	Cantor
1. Spir - it of hope,	stand be - fore our eyes.	Spir - it of light,
2. Spir - it of life,	break the chains of death.	Spir - it of joy,
3. Spir - it of truth,	save us from our lies.	Spir - it of God,

All to Refrain
 1. dance with - in our dark-ness. Make us your own, now is the time.
 2. o - ver-come our sad-ness. Make us your own, now is the time.
 3. walk a - mong your peo - ple. Make us your own, now is the time.

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Send Down the Fire

Refrain



Send down the fire of your jus - tice,
Send down the rains of your love; Come,
send down the Spir - it, breathe life in your peo - ple, and
we shall be peo - ple of God.

Verses



1. Call us to be your com - pas - sion,
2. Call us to learn of your mer - cy,
3. Call us to an - swer op - pres - sion,
4. Call us to wit - ness your King - dom,

Teach us the song of your love; Give us
Teach us the way of your peace; Give us
Teach us the fire of your truth; Give us
Give us the pres - ence of Christ; May your

hearts that sing, Give us deeds that ring, Make us
hearts that feel, Give us hands that heal, Make us
right - eous souls, 'Til your jus - tice rolls, Make us
ho - ly light Keep us shin - ing bright, Ev - er

D.C.

ring with the song of your love.
walk in the way of your peace.
burn with the fire of your truth.
shine with the pres - ence of Christ.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
© 1989, GIA Publications, Inc.

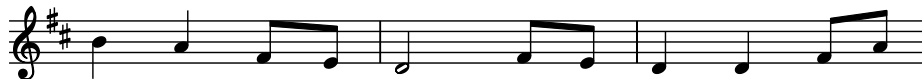
SING A NEW CHURCH

NETTLETON

Verses



1. Sum-moned by the God who made us Rich in
2. Ra - diant ris - en from the wa - ter, Robed in
3. Trust the good - ness of cre - a - tion; Trust the
4. Bring the hopes of ev - 'ry na - tion; Bring the
5. Draw to - geth - er at one ta - ble All the



1. our di - ver - si - ty, Gath-ered in the name of
2. ho - li - ness and light, Male and fe - male in God's
3. Spir - it strong with - in. Dare to dream the vi - sion
4. art of ev - 'ry race. Weave a song of peace and
5. hu - man fam - i - ly; Shape a cir - cle ev - er

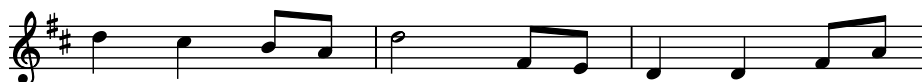


1. Je - sus, Rich - er still in u - ni - ty:
2. im - age, Male and fe - male, God's de - light:
3. prom - ised, Sprung from seed of what has been.
4. jus - tice; Let it sound through time and space.
5. wid - er And a peo - ple ev - er free.

Refrain



Let us bring the gifts that dif - fer And, in



splen - did, var - ied ways, Sing a new church in - to



be - ing, One in faith and love and praise.

Text: 87 87 D; Delores Dufner, OSB. © 1991, Sisters of St. Benedict. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved. Music: from J. Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Pt. II, 1813*.

We Are Marching

We are march - ing* in the light of God, we are

1. march-ing in the light of God. 2. march-ing in the light of the

we are march - ing, light of God, we are march-ing, march - ing, we are

Oo we are march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing in the light of God.

* Alternate text: dancing, singing, praying

Text: South African
Tune: South African
© 1984, Utryck, Walton Music Corporation, agent


We Are Called




1. Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
2. Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
3. Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that




joy and the love of the Lord! We are called
mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called
great day when all will be one! God will reign,



to be light for the king - dom, to
to be hope for the hope - less so all
and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God!
ha - tred and blind - ness will be no more!
sis - ters and broth - ers u - nit - ed in love!



We are called to act with jus-tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly, we are called to serve one an - oth - er;



to walk hum - bly with God!

Text: Micah 6:8; David Haas, b.1957
Tune: David Haas, b.1957
© 1988, GIA Publications, Inc.

Leaving a Legacy of Equality

When you make a legacy gift, you are ensuring that the mission you care so deeply about—equality for women in the Catholic Church—will continue to be fulfilled.

The Legacy of Equality is an initiative the Women's Ordination Conference (WOC) encourages members to prayerfully consider how they will support WOC's future through planned giving. By naming WOC as a beneficiary of your will, insurance policy, retirement or investment account, or other estate plan, you can insure that your assets will continue to promote the values of gender justice through future generations.

To name WOC as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or investment account, you may request a "change of beneficiary" form from your plan/account administrator. An advantage of bequests and gifts of retirement plans and investments is that they're revocable — you can change your bequest or the beneficiary on your account(s) at any time.

Whichever option you choose, you will be supporting women's leadership in the church for years to come.

Recognizing that members' needs and obligations may change over time, WOC will not request copies of wills or a statement of specific financial figures. Simply indicate in writing the commitment to name WOC as a beneficiary in a will or other estate plan and forward your indication to us. Unless you wish to remain anonymous, WOC will recognize Legacy of Equality members with a special notation in our bi-annual newsletter, *New Women, New Church*.

Yes, I/we are interested in supporting WOC as part of the Legacy Circle.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Check one:

☐ I/we have remembered WOC in my will or estate planning

I would like to remain anonymous ☐ yes ☐ no

☐ I/we would like to remember WOC in my will – please send more information.

Complete the above form and return to:

Women's Ordination Conference, PO Box 15057, Washington, DC 20003 USA

Renew your WOC Membership Today!

In honor of our 40th anniversary year membership will be reduced to only \$40. This will be a special year for WOC – don't miss out on the benefits of membership, including New Women, New Church, action alerts, and activist and liturgical resources. Renew Today! Checks payable to "WOC" can be sent to:

WOC
PO Box 15057
Washington, DC 20003

Or donate online! www.womensordination.org