

# Liturgy in the Thanksgiving for The Ordination of Women



## Women's Equality Day

Sunday, August 26, 2018

3:00 p.m.

**The Rev. Caron A. Gwynn**

Celebrant

**National Mall**

Washington, DC



# Liturgy in the Thanksgiving for The Ordination of Women

Women's Equality Day, August 26, 2018

**Processional Hymn**

*When morning gilds the sky*

Anonymous

## The Gathering of God's People

Celebrant Blessed God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
People **And blessed be God's realm, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One,  
People **Have mercy upon us.**

### The Collect

Celebrant God be with you.  
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.  
Grant to us, O Creator, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ your Child, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.  
People **Amen**

*A period of silence is kept.*

## The Word of God

### The First Reading

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Genesis 15: 1-6

After this, Abram had a vision and heard the LORD say to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I will shield you from danger and give you a great reward." But Abram answered, "Sovereign LORD, what good will your reward do me, since I have no children? My only heir is Eliezer of Damascus. You have given me no children, and one of

my slaves will inherit my property.” Then he heard the LORD speaking to him again: “This slave Eliezer will not inherit your property; your own son will be your heir.” The LORD took him outside and said, “Look at the sky and try to count the stars; you will have as many descendants as that.” Abram put his trust in the LORD, and because of this the LORD was pleased with him and accepted him.

Reader           The Word of the Lord.  
People           **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 33: 12-15, 18-22**     *(Read responsively by half verse.)*

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
**the people he chose for his inheritance.**

to deliver them from death  
**and keep them alive in famine.**

From heaven the LORD looks down  
**and sees all humankind;**

We wait in hope for the LORD;  
**he is our help and our shield.**

from his dwelling place he watches  
**all who live on earth—**

In him our hearts rejoice,  
**for we trust in his holy name.**

he who forms the hearts of all,  
**who considers everything they do.**

May your unfailing love be with us, LORD,  
**even as we put our hope in you.**

But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear  
him,  
**on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,**

**The Second Reading**

A reading from the Book of Hebrews

Hebrews 11: 1-16

To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. It was by their faith that people of ancient times won God's approval. It is by faith that we understand that the universe was created by God's word, so that what can be seen was made out of what cannot be seen. It was faith that made Abel offer to God a better sacrifice than Cain's. Through his faith he won God's approval as a righteous man, because God himself approved of his gifts. By means of his faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. It was faith that kept Enoch from dying. Instead, he was taken up to God, and nobody could find him, because God had taken him up. The scripture says that before Enoch was taken up, he had pleased God. No one can please God without faith, for whoever comes to God must have faith that God exists and rewards those who seek him. It was faith that made Noah hear God's warnings about things in the future that he could not see. He obeyed God and built a boat in which he and his family were saved. As a result, the world was condemned, and Noah received from God the righteousness that comes

by faith. It was faith that made Abraham obey when God called him to go out to a country which God had promised to give him. He left his own country without knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as a foreigner in the country that God had promised him. He lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who received the same promise from God. For Abraham was waiting for the city which God has designed and built, the city with permanent foundations. It was faith that made Abraham able to become a father, even though he was too old and Sarah herself could not have children. He trusted God to keep his promise. Though Abraham was practically dead, from this one man came as many descendants as there are stars in the sky, as many as the numberless grains of sand on the seashore. It was in faith that all these persons died. They did not receive the things God had promised, but from a long way off they saw them and welcomed them, and admitted openly that they were foreigners and refugees on earth. Those who say such things make it clear that they are looking for a country of their own. They did not keep thinking about the country they had left; if they had, they would have had the chance to return. Instead, it was a better country they longed for, the heavenly country. And so God is not ashamed for them to call him their God, because he has prepared a city for them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Sequence Music**

*Papa can you here me?*

*By Barbara Streisand*

#### **The Gospel**

**Celebrant** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Luke 1:46-55

**People** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Mary said, "My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Savior, for he has remembered me, his lowly servant! From now on all people will call me happy, because of the great things the Mighty God has done for me.

His name is holy; from one generation to another, he shows mercy to those who honor him. He has stretched out his mighty arm and scattered the proud with all their plans. He has brought down mighty kings from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away with empty hands. He has kept the promise he made to our ancestors and has come to the help of his servant Israel. He has remembered to show mercy to Abraham and to all his descendants forever!"

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

#### **The Homily**

The Rev. Caron A. Gwynn

## **Prayers of the People, A Litany of Thanksgiving for the Ordination of Women**

*The bolded lines are spoken by the People*

*Litanist*

Let us give thanks to God, who has created us and is transforming us and the Church.

For the gifts of ministry and leadership which you have bestowed through Baptism upon women and men,  
Our souls proclaim the greatness of God,

**Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

For the ministries of ordained women – bishops, priests, and deacons – who serve and lead in your  
Church,

Our souls proclaim the greatness of God,

**Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

For Florence Li Tim-Oi, ordained priest in Hong Kong in 1944, and for the three other women ordained  
priests in China in 1971 and 1973,

Our souls proclaim the greatness of God,

**Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

For the women ordained priest in Philadelphia in 1974; Merrill Bittner, Alla Bozarth--Campbell, Allison  
Cheek, Emily Hewitt, Carter Heyward, Suzanne Hiatt, Marie Moorefield, Jeannette Piccard, Betty Bone  
Schiess, Katrina Welles Swanson, and Nancy Hatch Wittig; and for those ordained in Washington D.C. in  
1975; Diane Tickel, Alison Palmer, Betty Powell and Lee Mc Gee.

Our souls proclaim the greatness of God,

**Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

For the courageous leadership of those who envisioned the possibilities of a priesthood that includes  
women as well as men,

Our souls proclaim the greatness of God,

**Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

For the faithfulness and persistent vision of those in diocese and denominations where women cannot be  
ordained, who long to experience the ordained leadership of women as well as men,

Our souls proclaim the greatness of God,

**Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior**

For our children who are growing up with an image of ordained leadership which includes both women  
and men,

Our souls proclaim the greatness of God,

**Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

For ordained women who have died and joined the communion for All your Saints

Our souls proclaim the greatness of God,

**Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

## The Exchange of Peace

Celebrant        The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
People            **And also with you.**

## The Offertory

*Collected written prayers from the people are presented to be blessed.*

## The Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching Our Worship Prayer 3

Celebrant        The Lord be with you.  
People            **And also with you.**  
Celebrant        Lift up your hearts.  
People            **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Celebrant        Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People            **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues*

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving god; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Glory and honor are yours, creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and gave himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me” And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming n glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

### **Celebrant and People**

**Dying you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life, Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

### **Celebrant and People**

**Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and  
the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.  
A period of silence is kept.*

**Celebrant** Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**People** **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.  
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**Communion Music**

*Chaser of the light*

by Yoyo Sham

**After Communion, the Celebrant says**

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood.**

**Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen**

**The Blessing**

*The Celebrant may bless the people*

You have eaten the food that endures for eternal life, Christ, the true bread from heaven; be filled with love.

With all humility, gentleness and patience, maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

And the blessing of our bounteous God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and dwell within you, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Recessional Music**

*Glory*

by John Legend, Common, and Rhymefest

**Dismissal**

Celebrant      Let us go forth into the world,  
Rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.

People         **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**