

## **A Service to Celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Admission of Women as Readers.**

This service material is offered for possible use to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the admission of women to Reader ministry, 09 May 2009. The service contains aspects of celebration and re-dedication that can be used within a Eucharist service or a Service of the Word. The following is a list of resources which may be used in the preparation of services for each local situation. The suggestions are intended to provide sufficient material to select and construct an appropriate service. The suggestions are by no means exhaustive or conclusive and other material may be added as required.

These suggestions do not set out to represent a triumphal feminism. Rather, they reflect the truth that Reader ministry is shared between men and women, and each brings to it their complementary gifts. However, we want to recognise the specific contribution that women have made to Reader ministry and to affirm them in that ministry. Many of these suggestions can be adapted, by addition or amendment, to place different emphasis on particular aspects of the work of women as Readers.

### **Greetings**

Versicle        I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart

**Response        I will tell of all your wonders**

Versicle        I will be glad and rejoice in you

**Response        I will sing praise to your name, O Most High**

Or **New Patterns of Worship - See Note 1**

p. 230, G41 or G42

### **Suggested confessions**

**New Patterns of Worship:**

Page 93, no. B62

Page 94, no. B66

### **Suggested absolutions**

**New Patterns of Worship**

Page 97, no. B80

Page 97, no. B 82

## Suggested prayers/intercessions

### **Collects**

O God, the power of the powerless

You have chosen as your witnesses

Those whose voice is not heard.

Grant that, as women first announced the Resurrection, though they were not believed, we too may have courage to persist in proclaiming your word,

In the power of Jesus Christ.

Amen

(The St Hilda Community 'Women Included' pg 43 SPCK 1992) - See Note 2

### **Thanksgivings**

We thank you O Lord

For the faith and commitment of those men and women who, through the ages, Have preached the Gospel of the living Christ.

We thank you especially today for the ministry of Readers

And particularly the various gifts that women bring to this ministry.

Keep us faithful to our calling

That we may proclaim the name of Jesus in the world of our day.

For the glory of your name,

Amen

Almighty God,

Creator of the world in all its variety.

We bless you that you have created us, in your image,

With gifts of understanding, love and service.

Especially we thank you today for calling women, as well as men,

To the ministry of Readers.

We pray that in the use of the variety of our gifts

We may complement each other and bring the full breadth of humanity

Into your service.

Amen.

New Patterns of Worship

p.252/3, no. G81

(some sections may be omitted, and others, suitable for the occasion, added.)

Father God, we thank you for calling men and women into Reader ministry. We thank you for the opportunity that women now have to serve you as Readers within the Church. We thank you for the privilege of being able to serve you in our homes, our places of work and in our parishes. Keep us faithful to your calling and strengthen us as we proclaim your gospel to an increasingly sceptical world. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen

O Lord, you are the giver of all good gifts. We thank you that, in the creation of men and women, you gave to each their complementary gifts. Thank you for those women who have followed your call throughout the years and who have taught and inspired us as we have sought to find your will for us in our lives. Please be with all Readers, to strengthen and equip them as they minister in your name. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Intercessions**

New Patterns of Worship  
p.206/7, no. F65  
p.213, no. F72

### **Closing Prayers**

Lord our minds seek to know you,  
Our heart long to find you,  
Our souls desire to serve you.  
Send us out, aware of your presence,  
That our hearts may be renewed,  
Our minds refreshed, our souls restored,  
That we may reveal you to others,  
And know you ourselves  
As Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen.

(David Adams, 'The open Gate' p.9 SPCK 1994) - **See Note 2**

God, be in my week and in my working  
God, be in my relationships and in my relating  
God, be in my leisure and in my relaxing  
God, may there be no place where you are not.  
Amen.

(Susan Hardwick, 'Woven Fine' pg.74 Kevin Mayhew 1997) - **See Note 3**

**New Patterns of Worship :**

p. 296, no. J33

**Blessings**

**New Patterns of Worship**

p. 308, no. J88 or J89

p. 310, no. J98

**Suggested Readings;**

Proverbs 8: 1-11

Isaiah 55:1-13

Isaiah 61: 1-3

Jer 31: 31-34

Luke 1:46 - 55

Luke 7:36 – 50

John 15: 1-11

John 20:10 - 18

**Suggested Hymns;**

Brother, sister let me serve you  
Forth in thy name O Lord I go  
I the Lord of sea and sky  
Make me a channel of your peace  
Now thank we all our God  
Take my life and let it be  
Tell out my soul  
We have a gospel to proclaim  
Ye servants of God your Master proclaim  
You shall go out with joy

**Suggested actions;**

Giving the woman Reader/s a candle lit from the Paschal candle  
Giving a blessing to the woman Reader/s together with the laying on of hands or anointing with oil  
Asking the/a woman Reader to preach or assist in the service

## Notes

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