

Prayer – Women Involved in Service and Mission

Reader 1: We bless you, O God, for people: people of every color, race and creed; people past and present; people at home and abroad, who worship you with true and upright hearts.

All: Your mighty deeds, O Lord, make us glad. Because of what you have done, we sing for joy.

Reader 2: We bless you, O God, for the women among them: Women of faith, known and unknown, who have served you with love, dedication and courage.

All: Your mighty deeds, O God, make us glad. Because of what you have done, we sing for joy.

Reader 3: We bless you for women of the past: for Sarah, mother of Israel and mediator of the promise, who continues to be a model of faith to us.

Reader 1: We bless you for Miriam, psalmist and proclaimer of liberation, who led her people to freedom.

Reader 2: We remember Esther, queen and liberator, who courageously risked her life to save her people.

Reader 3: And Hannah, who prayed and waited patiently for a son, and then gave him back to you.

Reader 1: We think of Deborah, judge and prophetess; of Huldah, who helped her people to hear the law of God and change their ways.

All: We think of women: women who through the centuries have given themselves in service to God and people. Because of what you have done, we sing for joy.

Reader 2: We believe in women involved in service and mission today.

Reader 3: We believe in our purpose, the goal of helping women become effectively involved in the mission of the Church, meeting needs wherever they are.

Reader 1: We believe that women with a personal dedication to Christ, and a receiving of his power, will fulfill that purpose.

All: Because of what you have done through women, we sing for joy.

Reader 2: Who are we as women, involved in service and mission?

Reader 1: We are the Sarahs,

Reader 3: Miriams,

Reader 2: Esthers,

Reader 1: Hannahs,

Reader 3: Deborahs,

Reader 2: and Huldahs of today.

Reader 3: We are the Annas, sharing the Good News of Jesus with others.

Reader 1: We are the Marys, thoughtful, meditative and devoted, trying to get our priorities straight.

Reader 2: We are the Marthas, eager, aggressive, and desirous to service.

Reader 3: We are the Susannas and Johannas, providing for the work of the Lord through our means.

All: Because of what you have done, we sing for joy.

Reader 1: Our name may be Lydia, the businesswoman whose hear the Lord opened, and who showed hospitality and generosity.

Reader 2: Are we the Rhodas, excited and thrilled, yet forgetting to open the door?

Reader 3: We are the Phoebes, leading in our churches, helping many in their pilgrimage of faith.

All: Because of what you have done through women, we sing for joy.

Reader 1: Priscilla is also our name, teaching the fullness of the gospel as we lead our church into the total mission and ministry of our larger conferences.

Reader 2: And then there is Dorcas – how many of us bear that name? Sewing, quilting, helping those in need through local relief organizations.

Reader 3: Our names may be Lois and Eunice, grandmother and mother, whose influence on young lives will bear fruit.

All: Because of what you have done, we sing for joy.

Reader 1: We are women of the upper room, constantly in prayer, awaiting the power promised by our Lord.

Reader 2: We are the unnamed women on the Day of Pentecost, receiving the Holy Spirit.

Reader 3: We are women involved in service and mission, like our counterparts in Scripture. We pray that we may serve.

Reader 1: with vigor and enthusiasm,

Reader 2: with courtesy and kindness,

Reader 3: with love and compassion,

All: making Christ known throughout the world. Your mighty deeds, O God, make us glad. Because of what you have done and continue to do through women involved in service and mission – through all women everywhere – we sing for joy.

Rita Bauman (Canada), 1993. Mennonite Church Canada
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