

## INVOKING THE SPIRIT: CLAIMING THE CALL

### Call to Prayer

LEADER: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

**ALL: And kindle in them the fire of your love.**

LEADER: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

**ALL: And you will renew the face of the earth.**

### Prayer Movement 1: Claiming Our Foremothers in Faith

#### Candle Lighting

LEADER: We invoke the Holy Spirit of Creation, the breath of life.

**ALL: May She enkindle in us and in our church a desire for the wholeness God planned.**

**Hymn:** *Veni Sancte, Spiritus*

(Text: Taize Community, Music Jacques Berthier © 1979 Les Presses de Taize)

**Ostinato Refrain:** *Veni Sancte, Spiritus* (repeat)

**Reading:** The Creation of Humankind Genesis 1:26-31

#### Litany of Our Foremothers in Faith:

LEADER: We claim the stories of our Foremothers in Scripture:

READER: Eve and Lilith, Mothers of Life, you claimed your own power by reaching for knowledge and found it was good.

**ALL: Eve and Lilith, pray with us.**

READER: Ruth and Naomi, your devoted love for one another renewed your faith in the working of the divine.

**ALL: Ruth and Naomi, pray with us.**

READER: Mary of Nazareth, you listened, pondered, and knew that you had been chosen to give birth to Jesus,

**ALL: Mary, pray with us.**

READER: Mary of Magdala, you were the Apostle to the Apostles, chosen by Jesus to be the first to witness and preach the Good News of the Resurrection.

**ALL: Mary, pray with us.**

LEADER: What other Foremothers from Scripture shall we name?

**ALL respond "pray with us"**

LEADER: We claim stories of our Deacon Foremothers in Faith:

READER: Phoebe, you were benefactor and sister to Paul in faith, called a deacon to serve and lead the Church at Cenchrea.

**ALL: Phoebe, pray with us.**

READER: Olympias, widowed at a young age, you resisted patriarchal pressure to remarry and instead responded to the call to the diaconate, became a friend and benefactor to St. John Chrysostom, and lived a simple life in service to the poor.

**ALL: Olympias, pray with us.**

READER: Macrina, as deacon you devoted your life to spiritual development, established a monastery, and cared for the sick and the poor.

**ALL: Macrina, pray with us.**

READER: Dionysia, your life was a struggle, still you did not lose hope or faith in God and became a deacon of the church at Militene.

**ALL: Dionysia, pray with us.**

READER: Radegunda, you were taken as a prisoner and forced to marry a king, yet your passion for the poor would not be silenced and so you liberated yourself, trading in your robes for monastic garb as a deacon serving the poor.

**ALL: Radegunda, pray with us.**

READER: Anastasia of Antioch; Sophia of Jerusalem; St. Irene of Constantinople; Sabinia of Syria; Anna of Rome; Agathe of Philippi; and all you holy women, known and unknown to us, who served God's people as deacons.

**ALL: pray with us.**

LEADER: We now pause for a moment of silence ...

*In the silence of your heart, lift up the name(s) of your own Foremother(s) in faith.*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving for our Foremothers in Faith**

LEADER: Let us pray,  
we thank you, O God, that throughout history, women have  
faithfully, generously, and courageously responded to your call in their lives.

**ALL: may their witness give us the courage, strength and resolve to claim your call in our lives and in our Church. AMEN.**

**Hymn: The Summons** J. Bell

Text, John Bell, © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc. Tune: KELVINGROVE

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?  
  
Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?  
  
Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?  
Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?  
  
Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

## **Prayer Movement 2: Praying for the Commission**

### **Candle Lighting**

**LEADER:** We invoke the Holy Spirit of Pentecost,

**ALL:** **May She guide us, our Church, and those who lead it as we continue on our pilgrim journey**

**Hymn:** *Veni Sancte, Spiritus*

**Ostinato Refrain: *Veni Sancte, Spiritus* (repeat)**

**Reading:** The Coming of the Spirit Acts 2:1-4

**LEADER:** In a moment we will call upon the Spirit to once again give new birth to the Church and guide the Study Commission on the Women's Diaconate in their work just as she guided Jesus' followers some 2,000 years ago. Let us now share the story of how this commission came to be and their task.

Together we now pray for these women and men who comprise this commission as they undertake this work on our behalf and on behalf of the Church:

**ALL:**

**Holy Spirit,**

**We call upon you to guide The Commission for Women Deacons,**

**Open their minds to see the women deacons in our history and the need for a renewal of this ministry.  
Open their eyes to see the women of the world called to the diaconate.**

**Open their hearts to say yes to the women who cry out in love for the church, ready to say yes, ready to be deacons.**

**We ask for the intercession of all women past and present who have been the hands and feet of Christ on this earth. AMEN.**

**Hymn:**                    *Send Us Your Spirit*                    *D. Haas*

D. Haas                    © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.

**Refrain: Come Lord Jesus. Send us your Spirit. Renew the face of the earth. x2**

1. Come to us, Spirit of God. Breathe in us now. We sing together.

Spirit of hope and of light, fill all our lives.

Come to us, Spirit of God.

2. Fill us with the fire of your love. Burn in us now. Bring us together.

Come to us; dwell in us. Change our lives, oh Lord. Come to us, Spirit of God.

3. Send us the wings of new birth.

Fill all the earth with the love you have taught us.

Let all creation now be shaken with love. Come to us, Spirit of God.

### **Prayer Movement 3: Claiming Our Call**

#### **Candle Lighting**

**LEADER:**                    We invoke the Holy Spirit of Liberation; the Spirit of Mary and her Son Jesus who both proclaimed the justice and equality of the Reign of God.

**ALL:**                    **May she free us to boldly claim our call to participate fully in God's reign**

**Hymn:**                    *Veni Sancte, Spiritus*

**Ostinato Refrain: *Veni Sancte, Spiritus* (repeat)**

**Reading:**                    Phoebe Delivers the Letter to the Romans                    Romans 16:1-2

#### **Witness/Reflection:**

#### **Affirmation and Blessing:**

*Participants are instructed to turn to their neighbor, and make the sign of the cross or some other sign of blessing over each other as the leader prays the blessing. Those watching alone at home may bless themselves.*

**Closing Hymn:**      *All Are Welcome*      M. Haugen

Text, Marty Haugen, b. 1950    © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.

Tune: TWO OAKS

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions. All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus. All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us. All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger. All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter. All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.