**Vocations Sunday 2019: Where are the Women? The Women are Here!**

**Gathering Song (Optional):** A Place at the Table by Lori True

*(Language adapted for inclusivity)*

For everyone born, a place at the table,

for everyone born, clean water and bread,

a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,

for everyone born, a star overhead,

and God will delight when we are creators

of justice and joy;

yes, God will delight when we are creators

of justice, justice and joy!

For equals in faith, a place at the table,

revising the roles, deciding the share,

with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,

for equals in faith, a system that's fair,

and God will delight when we are creators

of justice and joy;

yes, God will delight when we are creators

of justice, justice and joy!

**Opening:** We gather as kindred on this day marked for prayer for vocations. We gather to expand the concept of vocation to include the ordination of people of all genders - especially women, who have been left outside church leadership for too long. We gather outside this church to symbolize where the hierarchy has left women for hundreds of years: Outside. And we say:

**ALL: We are here!**

We ask, “Where are the women?” And we answer boldly - we have been here all along, and we are knocking on the closed doors, demanding our inclusion. Let us say:

**ALL: We are here!**

**Litany:**

We remember the women who have gone before us in leadership. Let us respond - ***sister, you are with us.***

Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles...

Phoebe, deacon of Cenchreae…

Junia, the apostle…

Lydia, leader of house church....

Desert mothers, wise women…

Macrina the Younger, theologian and saint...

Theodora, bishop…

St. Hildegard of Bingen, doctor of the Church…

St. Catherine of Siena, doctor of the Church...

St. Teresa of Avila, doctor of the Church…

St. Therese of Lisieux, patron saint of women’s ordination…

Dorothy Day…

Sr. Mary Luke Tobin…

Ada Maria Isasi Diaz…

Sr. Thea Bowman…

*(Participants are invited to name aloud women they wish to bring to the circle.)*

And all women, living and dead, who have modeled courage and vision within our Church.

**Reading: A reading from the book of Wisdom. (Wisdom 7:21-30)**

I learned both what is secret and what is manifest,

for wisdom, the fashioner of all things, taught me.

There is in her a spirit that is intelligent, holy,

unique, manifold, subtle,

mobile, clear, unpolluted,

distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, keen,

irresistible, beneficent, humane,

steadfast, sure, free from anxiety,

all-powerful, overseeing all,

and penetrating through all spirits

that are intelligent, pure, and altogether subtle.

For wisdom is more mobile than any motion;

because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things.

For she is a breath of the power of God,

and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty;

therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her.

For she is a reflection of eternal light,

a spotless mirror of the working of God,

and an image of his goodness.

Although she is but one, she can do all things,

and while remaining in herself, she renews all things;

in every generation she passes into holy souls

and makes them friends of God, and prophets;

for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom.

She is more beautiful than the sun,

and excels every constellation of the stars.

Compared with the light she is found to be superior,

for it is succeeded by the night,

but against wisdom evil does not prevail.

The Word of Our God.

**Thanks be to God.**

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We know that when we are outside, God stands with us, on the margins. Let us offer prayers to the God who embraces all:

*An opportunity for prayers to be spoken by those gathered. After each prayer we respond,*

**God, help us know you are with us.**

**Closing Prayer** (From “You Shall be My Witnesses” in WomanPrayer, WomanSong by Miriam Therese Winters)

God of Good News,

God of surprises,

We have come together to praise you

And to open ourselves wide

To Your intuitive touch.

Surrounded by a cloud of witnesses,

Women of history,

Named and unnamed,

Known and unknown,

We drink deep of the wisdom

And fidelity

Of the past,

The faith of our foremothers

Who showed us how

To live what we believe.

When driven to doubt,

When close to despair,

May we still believe

In miracles

And witness courageously

To what might be

In Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

**Closing Song (Optional):** We Are Called by David Haas

*(Language adapted for inclusivity)*

1. Come! live in the light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom,

to live in the freedom of the city of God!

We are called to act with justice

We are called to love tenderly

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

2. Come! Open your heart!

Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless,

so all hatred and blindness will be no more!

CHORUS

3. Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign and we'll walk with each other as siblings together united in love!