

A Litany for the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church

Celebrant God of our forebears, we remember the first women ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church: Alison Mary Cheek, Alla Renée Bozarth-Campbell, Betty Bone Schiess, Isabel Carter Heyward, Emily Clark Hewitt, Jeannette Ridlon Piccard, Katrina Martha van Alstyne Welles Swanson, Marie Moorefield Fleischer, Merrill Bittner, Nancy Constantine Hatch Wittig, and Suzanne Radley Hiatt. Thank you for calling them to priesthood, and for giving them the resolve to answer.

People **We thank you, Holy One.**

Celebrant We remember the bishops who acted to ordain them: Daniel Corrigan, Robert DeWitt, and Edward Welles. We thank you for their apostolic service. We thank you, Holy One. We give thanks for the leaders of the Church of the Advocate, who embodied hospitality and care.

People **We thank you, Holy One.**

Celebrant We thank you for the bishops and deputies who acted to break down gender barriers to ordination, opening the way for women to answer your call in this church.

People **We thank you, Holy One.**

Celebrant Spirit of love, we pray for ears to hear your call, and the strength to answer.

People **Hear us, Holy One.**

Celebrant Spirit of wisdom, we pray for discerning hearts, so that we may recognize the gifts and ministries for which you equip us.

People **Hear us, Holy One.**

Celebrant Spirit of justice, we pray for those who are devalued and limited, rather than lifted and celebrated; help us to see your glory in every human face.

People **Hear us, Holy One**

Celebrant Spirit of love, we pray for your church and for your world. As we strive to bring equity to our church, we pray to serve as models of justice and peace for our neighbors.

People **Hear us, Holy One.**

Celebrant Holy and gracious God, we pray to participate each day in the renewal of your church and in the healing of the world. Teach us to value one another, to rely on the breadth of our diverse gifts, and to unite us in bonds of love. We pray because of Jesus, who teaches us to serve. Amen.

Collects and prayers written by The Very Reverend Kay Sylvester, Diocese of Los Angeles