

Thank Offering 2008

DEDICATION SERVICE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

BY ELLEN REXING

Call to Worship

One: Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers . . .

All: . . . for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

One: Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them . . .

All: . . . those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

One: Jesus said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."

All: So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

Hymn Suggestions

PH #289 "O God of Every Nation"

SF #2036 "Give Thanks"

Scripture

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect" (*Romans 12:1-2*).

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (*Hebrews 13:16*).

Meditation

Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;
honor all people;

love and serve the Lord,

rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

—*Book of Common Worship* (Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 1993), p. 82

We have all heard this charge at the end of a service. We have heard it so often perhaps that when the pastor begins, "May you go out into the world . . ." we begin putting away the hymnal, folding the bulletin into our purse, picking up the mess the kids have made, thinking about talking to the PW moderator about the yard sale and so on. How long has it been since we really listened to that beautiful charge and made a determination to live out the week into such a life? If we lived each day seeking peace, serving others, honoring those who are different, we would be doing that which Christ calls us to do. Let us be transformed so that we might discern the will of God—that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Praise to this God of action whom we celebrate! We pray that every good act reflects our love for Jesus and His love to the world. May we never say, "I've done enough!" May we realize there is always so much more we can give, more we can do, more we can offer. May God bless the people receiving our help, that they may glorify God with their actions toward others. Amen.

Hymn Suggestions

PH# 332 "Live Into Hope"

Ellen Rexing is a member of the PC(USA)'s General Assembly Council and PW's Creative Ministries Offering Committee.

BASED ON
Hebrews
13:1-3, 5, 6