

The Anglican Church Women Board, Diocese of NS & PEI

promotes the celebration

Women's Ministry Sunday - March 6, 2022

in the Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island

with the theme of *Community: Care . . . Courage . . . Compassion*

and invites you and all women and men to see how it is encompassed in the

International Women's Day 2022 Theme: *Break the Bias*

March 8, 2022

Both themes encourage action to achieve a gender-equal world, one that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive, one where differences and Baptismal gifts are valued and celebrated. These desirable outcomes are achievable when people act within the framework of

justice, peace and love.

It takes concern for others, courage, and compassion to *break the bias*, but it can be done!

To all women in the Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island

the suggestions offered here of **litanies, hymns and prayers** for **Women's Ministry Sunday**

are but starting points for your own planning.

While several notable Nova Scotian women are briefly profiled here, for sure there are women in your parish, your community, indeed, Canada and the wider world, who have used their gifts, while sacrificing their own ambitions for the greater good.

Our prayer is that all women's ministry will enrich your lives, the life of your parish, and make our world one that lives up to the words of the last verse of the Anglican Church Women hymn, ***The Love of Jesus Calls Us.***

*The love of Jesus calls us, in swiftly changing days,
to be God's co-creators in new and wondrous ways;
that God, with men and women, may so transform the earth,
that love and peace and justice may give God's kingdom birth.*

Nova Scotian women guided by **love** and **peace** and **justice**, ones who exemplify **Break the Bias**

Muriel Duckworth – social gospeller, standing with the poor and powerless, a champion for peace.

Viola Desmond – an African Nova Scotian who broke down barriers by challenging segregation, helping to start the civil rights movement in Canada.

Ret'd. Bishop Sue Moxley – a tireless supporter of Indigenous rights, a giver of sanctuary to a woman facing deportation, and former Convenor of the *Anglican Peace and Justice Network (APJN)* for the Anglican Communion worldwide.

Her Honour Mayann Francis – Nova Scotia's first African descent Lt. Governor and a human rights champion. Her motto always is: "*Go where God leads you*".

Women's Ministry Sunday

Here are some suggestions for readings and hymns that you may wish to include in your service if celebrating Women's Ministry Sunday on March 6, 2022

Amos 5:4-15 More than the other prophets, Amos concentrates on injustice. The words of **Common Praise (CP) #575** – [Let Streams of Living Justice](#) speak to injustice.

Micah 6:1-8 Even though Micah lived in one of the darkest times in Israel's history, he could see God's light at the end of the dark tunnel. **Hymn CP #171** – [What Does the Lord Require?](#) spells out the way back to God.

Is. 58:1, 6-14 Here again, Isaiah brings the word of the Lord to the people, showing how justice can be restored if people will only listen. **Hymns CP #171** and **#575**, already noted, suit this reading; as well, **CP #576** – [For the Healing of the Nations](#) speaks of the common quest for justice.

1 John:7-21 John stresses that the Christians must love one another, because if they truly do this one thing, they will not fall back into hate, injustice and other sins. **CP Hymn #573** – [O Day of Peace](#) – When people learn to love . . . all the world shall know the Lord.

Let Us Be Women Who Love

Let us be women willing to lay down our sword words, our sharp looks, our ignorant *silence and towering stance and fill the earth now with extravagant Love. **Let us be Women who Love.***

Let us be women who make room. Let us be women who open our arms and invite others into an honest, spacious, glorious embrace. Let us be women who carry each other. Let us be women who give from what we have. Let us be women who leap to do the difficult things, the unexpected things and the necessary things. Let us be women who live for Peace. Let us be women who breathe Hope. Let us be women who create Beauty. ***Let us be Women who Love.***

Let us be a sanctuary where God may dwell. Let us be a garden for tender souls. Let us be a table where others may feast on the goodness of God. Let us be a womb for Life to grow. ***Let us be Women who Love.***

Let us rise to the questions of our time. Let us speak to the injustices in our world. Let us move the mountains of fear and intimidation. Let us shout down the walls that separate and divide. Let us fill the earth with the fragrance of Love. ***Let us be Women who Love.***

Let us listen for those who have been silenced. Let us honour those who have been devalued. Let us say, "Enough!" with abuse, abandonment, diminishing and hiding. Let us not rest until every person is free and equal. ***Let us be Women who Love.***

Let us be women who are savvy, smart and wise. Let us be women who shine with the light of God in us. Let us be women who take courage and sing the song in our hearts. Let us be women who say, "Yes" to the beautiful, unique purpose seeded in our souls. Let us be women who call out the song in another's heart. Let us be women who teach our children to do the same. ***Let us be Women who Love.***

Let us be women who Love, in spite of fear. Let us be women who Love, in spite of our stories. Let us be women who Love Loudly, Beautifully, Divinely. ***Let us be Women who Love.***

A Litany for all the Faithful Women

Creator God, we thank you for women who are filled with your life-giving Spirit; **for women with words from the divine;**

for women who advocate for justice; **for women who speak truth;**

for women called by God to serve in the Church of Jesus Christ. **We lift our voices in gratitude for women who give the gift of knowledge, proclaiming your saving grace, in pulpits and women's groups, session tables and kitchen tables, boardrooms and family rooms, Sunday Schools and quilting circles.**

We lift our voices in gratitude for named and unnamed women who lead us in God's way. For Ruth and Naomi, whose destinies were intertwined, **we thank you, God.**

For Mary and Elizabeth, who blessed each other, **we thank you, God.**

We are grateful, Loving Creator, for all these women and their witness and love.

We are grateful for all the faithful women, walking together, serving Christ in the world.

A Litany in Celebration of Women

We walk in the company of the women who have gone before, mothers of the faith both named and unnamed, testifying with ferocity and faith to the Spirit of wisdom and healing.

They are the judges, the prophets, the martyrs, the warriors, poets, lovers, and saints who are near to us in the shadow of awareness, in the crevices of memory, in the landscape of our dreams.

We walk in the company of Deborah,

who judged the Israelites with authority and strength.

We walk in the company of Esther,

who used her position as queen to ensure the welfare of her people.

We walk in the company of you whose names have been lost and silenced,

who kept and cradled the wisdom of the ages.

We walk in the company of the woman with the flow of blood,

who audaciously sought her healing and release.

We walk in the company of Mary Magdalene,

who wept at the empty tomb until the risen Christ appeared.

We walk in the company of Phoebe,

who led an early church in the empire of Rome.

We walk in the company of Perpetua of Carthage,

whose witness in the third century led to her martyrdom.

We walk in the company of St. Christina the Astonishing,

who resisted death with persistence and wonder.

We walk in the company of Julian of Norwich

who wed imagination and theology, proclaiming, "All shall be well."

We walk in the company of Sojourner Truth,

who stood against oppression, righteously declaring, in 1852, "Ain't I a woman!"

We walk in the company of the Argentine mothers of the Plazo de Mayo,
**who turned their grief to strength, standing together to remember “the disappeared”
children of war with holy indignation.**

We walk in the company of Alice Walker,
who named the lavender hue of womanish strength.

We walk in the company of you mothers of the faith,
who teach us to resist evil with boldness, to lead with wisdom and to heal.

We walk in the company of Wanda Eloise Davis Robson, **who was a giant in her ability to
speak about injustice in a way that inspired others to want to do better. Amen.**

Come Celebrate the Women

Come, celebrate the women, who brought the church to birth;

The gentle revolution that shall transform the earth:

Whose faith was salt and leaven, whose hearts and minds were free,

And this was their direction: to **peace and unity**.

The Teachers, saints and mothers, who lived and died unsung,

kept safe the gospel story, and taught it to the young;

The Christ child Mary cradled, the living Word to be,

was crucified for pleading this **peace and unity**.

Daughters of the disciples, you weave the story still,

the fabric of the future, with warmth and love and skill.

You make the bread of wholeness, the wine of harmony,

and all shall share your feasting, in **peace and unity**.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray

Tune: *Ellacombe* & others (eg. Aurelia)

Anglican Church Women Prayer

Almighty God, we give thanks to you for having sent your blessed Son to become the Saviour of the world; grant to us a deep sense of gratitude for your grace and mercy towards us. Enable us by your Spirit to reveal your love in all our actions so that your salvation may become known to all peoples and your name glorified throughout all the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Anglican Church Women Hymn

The Love of Jesus Calls Us

The love of Jesus calls us, our joyous praise to sing;
our deeply felt thanksgivings we now together bring,
for all God's many blessings, unasked yet still received,
and for the generations who faithfully believed.

The love of Jesus calls us, that we may always be
companions on a journey where all the world may see,
that serving Christ is freedom, which time does not destroy;
where Christ's command is duty, and every duty joy.

The love of Jesus calls us, to go where he would go,
to challenge all that limits, to change, to learn, to grow,
to know that Christ has freed us, that prisons are no more;
for those who seek his kingdom, Christ opens every door.

The love of Jesus calls us, in swiftly changing days,
to be God's co-creators in new and wondrous ways;
that God, with men and women, may so transform the earth,
that love and peace and justice may give God's kingdom birth.

Text: Hebert O'Driscoll (1928 -)

Tune: *Aurelia*

Women's Ministry Sunday Resource Kit designed and collated by: Carolyn Chenhall, Ethel Nelson, and Cynthia Pilichos of the Anglican Church Women Board, Diocese of NS & PEI; February 19, 2022.