

**Leadership Conference of Women Religious
2024 Annual Assembly – Orlando, Florida
Megan McElroy, OP**

**Sending Forth: LCWR Closing Liturgy
August 16, 2024
Readings: I Corinthians 12:4-13; John 20:19-22**

Our time is holy: who then shall we be?

We shall be sisters, brothers, all beloved of God,
Called and claimed for Christ in baptism,
Anointed and sealed with the gifts of the Spirit.
Not every gift for every person,
for “to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”
But specific gifts “allotted to each one individually
just as the Spirit chooses,”
that we might all come together in our diverse giftedness
to share in the mission of God in the one Spirit.

Our time is holy: who then shall we be?

We shall be a Eucharistic people, blessed and broken, poured out and given
that we might become the One whom we receive
and do in memory of him
what he is doing in us, by inspiriting us
to give life, to be love, to offer radical hospitality,
To dare to be signs of courageous hope
in a world that is as blessed and as broken as his Body.

Our time is holy: who then shall we be?

We shall be his Body:

- His eyes looking with compassion on the world
- His ears listening for the tears of all creation piercing our consciousness
- His hands touching and healing all who are hurting
- His shoulders carrying the sorrows and the joys of the world

We shall be:

- His heart loving and forgiving
- His arms embracing and holding a collapsing world
- His feet accompanying in death and leading to life

We shall be his mouth

- Lamenting that which should not be
- And proclaiming and preaching

That all is gift, all is blessing, all is good, for all is of God, from God, and for God.

Our time is holy: who then shall we be?

We shall be dreamers of a new dawn that God is birthing.

We shall be missionary disciples

breaking down the doors of fear that try (so valiantly) to lock us in.

We shall be servant leaders of the Church filled with courage and confidence,
audacity and boldness.

We shall be his apostles sent forth by his word,
“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

And we shall go forth possessed by his Spirit Ruah breathed upon us
to be a blessing and to proclaim for all God’s people to hear,
“שלום (Shalom)! سلام (Salaam)! शान्ति (Shanti)! Paz! Pace! Paix! Frieden!
Amani! Hòa bình! Мир (Mir)! Спокій (Spokiy)! Kapayapaan! Síocháin! Peace!”
Peace, Peace! for the healing and the life of our world,
para todos, todos, todos!

Out time is holy: who then shall we be?

We shall be our authentic and gifted, contemplative and prophetic, beautiful and gorgeous
selves.

We shall be, as Catherine of Siena once said, who God intends us to be, and we will set the
world on fire!