

Litany of Women

Leader: Blessed are believing women
entering the darkness of every age,
seeking light, spreading love,
living hope.
We savor and celebrate the wisdom of our sisters,
our fore-mothers in faith.

1. Julian of Norwich: God did not say,
You will never have a rough passage,
you will never be over-strained,
you will never feel uncomfortable,
but he did say You will never be overcome.
All shall be well.

Brief reflection

Response: **Blessed Is She** – refrain *with gesture led by dancers*

2. Clare of Assisi: What you hold, may you hold.
What you do, may you do and not stop.
But with swift pace, light step, unswerving feet,
so that even your steps stir up no dust,
may you go forward securely, joyfully, and swiftly,
on the path of prudent happiness,
believing nothing,
agreeing with nothing
that would dissuade you from this commitment
or place a stumbling block for you on the
way,
so that nothing prevents you
from offering your vows to the Most High
in the perfection
to which the Spirit of the God has called you.

Reflection / Response

3. Hildegard of Bingen: The Spirit is Life, movement, color, radiance,
restorative stillness in the din.
The Spirit's power makes all withered sticks and souls
Green again with the juice of life.
The Spirit plays music in the soul...
gathers the perplexed strengthens and heals.
The Spirit awakens mighty hope,
blowing everywhere the winds of renewal in
creation.
And this is the Mystery of God in whom we live and move

Reflection / Response

4. Teresa of Avila: Let nothing disturb you
Nothing frighten you
All things are passing;
God never changes
Patient endurance prevails in all things;
The one whose home is in God wants for nothing
God alone suffices.

Reflection / Response

5. Catherine of Siena: If you choose me as your companion, you will never be alone;
My love will always be with you.
You will never fear anyone or anything,
for you will find your security on me.
With me as your companion,
you will live in the light of faith with hope and fortitude,
with true patience and perseverance.
I loved you before you existed
and knowing this
you can place your trust in my love and set aside every fear.
Enjoy my love, live in me and take from me the light of wisdom.
Take from me the fire of my spirit
and share with all my mercy and burning love

Reflection / Response

6. Janet Erskine Stuart: The higher we want to fly, the greater the risk,
but that is the glorious part of it.
The great uncertainties in which we trust God,
the breathless risks we run, with no assurance
but our great trust in God,
that seems to me to be of the essence of our life and its beauty.
This will grow upon you,
you will get your balance in the risk and get to love
it."
You must let God tempt you to walk on water in
and in your heart you must sing
because you belong to God.

Reflection / Response

7. Mechtilde of Magdeburg: Wouldst thou know my meaning?
Lie down in the Fire
See and taste the Flowing
Godhead through my being;
Feel the Holy Spirit
Moving and compelling
Thee with the Flowing
Fire and Light of God.