

ACT OF CONSECRATION

*LITANY

One: Holy and Gracious God

All: We give you thanks for the gift of life and the chance to live it together as your people.

One: We come this day to dedicate our lives and our treasure to your work through the ministries of this church

All: Lead us with grace, with love, and with peace.

One: As we prepare to commit ourselves to you,

All: Fill us with hope, patience, and stamina.

One: Through these pledges, draw us closer to you that we might more fully know your heart.

All: Transform us to grow in our understanding and to see more clearly your dreams for us and the world.

One: Take us and root us in love – your love – deep love

All: That through your love we become the hands and heart of Christ, your love incarnate.

READING *Testify*, by Eve L. Ewing

i stand before you to say
that today i walked home
& caught the light through
the fence & it was so golden
i wanted to cry & i lifted
my right hand to say thank
you god for the sun thank
you god for a chain link fence
& all the shoes that fit into
the chain link fence so that
we might get lifted god thank
you & i just wanted to dance
& it feels good to have food
in your belly & it feels good
to be home even when home

is the space between metal
shapes & still we are golden
& a man who wore the walk
of hard grounds & lost days
came toward me in the street
& said 'girl what a beautiful
day' & i said yes, testify
& i walked on & from some
place a horn rose, an organ,
a voice, a chorus, here to tell
you that we are not dead
we are not dead we are not
dead we are not dead we are
not dead we are not dead
we are not dead we are not
dead
yet

*BRINGING OUR PLEDGES FORWARD

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

In This Place

Kathy Burdette

Donna Butler, ASCAP

Verse *In this place we honor all the spirits who dreamed this sacred space,
Reaching out and reaching in to share the gift of faith.
Every soul is welcome in this covenant of grace.
Beloved child of God, join our table, take your place.*

Refrain *It was only brick and stone when I first walked through the door,
but something stirred my spirit here and now it's so much more.
Our hearts and doors stand open, surely God is in this place.
May the light of loving kindness shine from each and every face
in this place, in this place, in this place.*

Verse *In this place we gather to soar on hope and awe.
With your wisdom, clear our vision, help us face our flaws.
Equip us with a growing understanding of your grace.
Then, send us out to those in need of your embrace.*

Refrain

Bridge *What is the future? What are we called to do?
We're filled with possibility because we follow you.*

Congregation joins on final Refrain:

It was on - ly brick and stone when I first walked
through the door, but some - thing stirred my spir - it here and
now it's so much more. Our hearts and doors stand o - pen, sure - ly
God is in this place. May the light of lov - ing kind - ness
shine from each and ev - 'ry face in this place, in this
place, in this place, in this place.