



Faith of our mothers, guiding faith

Sevika Sangham Day- Remembering and Celebrating Women's Ministry.

P: And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

Opening Hymn

Grace! 'tis a charming sound,
Harmonious to the ear;
Heaven with the echo shall resound,
And all the earth shall hear.

*Saved by grace alone,
This is all my plea-
Jesus died for all mankind,
And Jesus died for me.*

'Twas grace that wrote my name
In life's eternal book;
'Twas grace that gave me to the Lamb,
Who all my sorrows took.

Grace taught my wandering feet
To tread the heavenly road;
And new supplies each hour I meet
While pressing on to God.

Grace taught my heart to pray,
And made mine eyes o'erflow;
'Twas grace which kept me to this day,
And will not let me go.

Oh, let that grace inspire
My heart with strength divine;
May all my powers to Thee aspire,
And all my days be Thine.

Lyrics: Philip Doddridge
Music: Ira David Sankey (1840-1908)

Kauma

P. †Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

C. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

C. Blessed is He that has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P. Holy art thou, O God.

C. Holy art thou, Almighty Lord.

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

C. O Lord, the Messiah who was crucified for us † have mercy on us. **(To be repeated thrice)**

P. O Lord, have mercy on us.

C. O Lord, have mercy on us and bless us.

P. O Lord, accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us.

C. Glory be to you, O God.

P. Glory be to you, O Creator.

C. Glory be to you, O King the Messiah; who has mercy on us sinners. Bless us, O Lord.

(Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us)

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is done in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever. Amen.

(Cong. to be seated)

Lesson 1 Judges 4:4-16

Lesson 2 Phil 4:1-7

Meditation

L: Sister Aleyamma Varghese,
Sihora Ashram, (1916-2003)

SISTER ALEYAMMA VARGHESE

SIHORA ASHRAM
1916 - 2003



Aleyamma was born on 14 February, 1916 into the Maliyekkal family of the Maramon Mar Thoma Parish. Aleyamma accepted Jesus Christ as her personal saviour during the Revival movement of 1930 (M.E. 1105). After her School education, she joined Sevika Sanghom Vanitha Mandiram in Tiruvalla for Bible study and Mission Training. Miss Callaway was her principal.

In a convention meeting held in Pathanapuram, she dedicated her life for Mission work outside Kerala. As per the instructions of Palakkattachan (Rev. P. John Varghese, who later became bishop of St. Thomas Evangelical Church) she decided to go to Sihora Ashram on 21 October, 1951. Her brother, Chacko Varghese, was already a member of the Sihora Ashram.

She started her Ashram work as a nursery teacher in a very remote village near Sihora. As there was no building, classes were conducted under a big tamarind tree. She was concerned about the health and hygiene of her students, and used to carry soap, oil, a towel and a comb with her, to bathe her students in the village pond. From July, 1952, she worked in the Sihora Mission Clinic with Sister Chechamma Varkey, who was a trained nurse. As there was no other means of transportation they both visited villages around Sihora on horse cart and attended to the medical needs of the women and children. In 1967, the clinic was converted into a hospital with 20 beds, and Dr. Sosamma Philip (Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma's sister) became the medical superintendent.

Even though she had no formal training in gardening, when the residence was shifted from Sihora to Darsani in 1973, the barren darsani compound was converted into a beautiful garden. Even today the greenery at Sihora Ashram stands as a witness to her work and love for nature.

In addition to her hospital work, Sister Aleyamma was busy conducting classes for the village children. She worked for the upliftment of the women in the Sihora taluk. She was very generous, and whatever pocket money she got from her brothers and sisters for her personal needs, she happily donated to the needy.

For 52 years she faithfully served the Ashram and the villages in and around Sihora Taluk. She was a glowing light for the villagers. Many were saved through her selfless work. She was called home on Friday, 31 July, 2003, and was buried in the ashram cemetery.

Her life is a challenge to all. There are millions in North Indian villages who have never heard about Jesus even once. Who will go there?

Then I heard the Lord say "Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?"

I answered, "I will go! Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

by Adv. John Joseph Nalloor

Hymn

Faith of our mothers, living still
In cradle song and bedtime prayer;
In nursery lore and fireside love,
Thy presence still pervades the air:
Faith of our mothers, living faith!
We will be true to thee to death.

Faith of our mothers, loving faith,
Fount of our childhood's trust and grace,
Oh, may thy consecration prove
Source of a finer, nobler race:
Faith of our mothers, living faith,
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
For youthful longing, youthful doubt,
How blurred our vision, blind our way,
Thy providential care without:
Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,
Is truth beyond our stumbling creeds,
Still serve the home and save the Church,
And breathe thy spirit through our deeds:
Faith of our mothers, Christian faith!
We will be true to thee till death.
Text: A. B. Patten, Music: Henri F. Hemi1865

L: A Woman of Valor

A woman of valor makes the world change
Her strength is the content that guides through the days
Defined by her actions that bring light to all dreams
Valor is something that's defined by her deeds.

Her valor is golden, sparkled and gray
She stands up to the challenge no matter the way
It can't be held back or defined by her age
Yes, a woman of valor makes the world change.

For valor's not held by the young or the old
But by the deeds of the heart that give and unfold
It's merit and honor that hold no disguise
Like the creation of being in the blessed Holy One's eyes.

For valor is the color of the song of her soul
As she changes, creates and turns light into gold

Divine is Her Presence, be it joyous or sad
- A Woman of Valor -
May offer little, but it will be all that she has.

For only her heart will know the depths of her soul
That nurtures and blossom and forever unfolds
And holds in its essence new life and new gain,
Yes,
A woman of valor makes the world change
A woman of valor makes the world change

By Eric S. Kingston, www.chabad.org

Cong. To stand

Intercessory Prayers

L: Oh Lord, we pray that you may strengthen us with power and revelation, so that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. Make us firm in love. Help us understand your will and wisdom in order to fight for your justice. We pray that you may make our hands strong and our voices heard. Grant us humility and discernment so that we may fight, not to conquer, but to liberate. To liberate the women silenced by the violence, from inequality and abuse, from unjust and discriminatory cultural or religious practices. Help us to heed to your call dear Lord, and lead us closer to you through service.

C: to be sung

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.

*Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side.*

L: Today we pray for:

- women who are in anguish because they do not have the resources to care for their children adequately
- women who must give birth in dangerous or squalid conditions
- women whose livelihoods are threatened by climate change.

We also pray for:

- women whose bodies have been violated by rape and degradation
- women whose bodies are bought and sold as commodities
- women whose cultures reflect them as inferior

And we give thanks:

for the persistence of those who struggle for equal rights for women, for an end to sexual violence, trafficking and discrimination, and for the power of human dignity.

Continue to bless and strengthen them with a steadfast hope.

C: Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,

By the power of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine.

L: For the women who are sick or handicapped, we pray the we can lend an ear to listen and a shoulder to lean on to.
For those who are old and time drags in slow anticipation, let us try and be their moments of joy and relief.
We pray for women who have given up home and comforts in serving You, by serving the poor and needy. Bless and strengthen them dear Lord.

C: There are depths of love that I cannot know
Till I cross the narrow sea;
There are heights of joy that I may not reach
Till I rest in peace with Thee.

L: We pray for the many activities of our Church Sevika Sangham- the cottage prayers, mission trips, breakfast sales that contribute to the Church projects, workshops, cooking and handicraft classes, visits to the homes of the sick and the aged, and their many other projects.
We pray especially for the hostel in Galilean Center for the less privileged and physically challenged women of society. We pray for the plans to build a better residence for these hostel mates. We pray that you give the Sevikha Sangham the strength and resources to complete this project soon. Lead them as a friend Dear Lord, and continue to guide them in their wonderful Ministry.

C: O the pure delight of a single hour
That before Thy throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God,
I commune as friend with friend!

Lyrics:Fanny Jane Crosby (1820-1915)
Music:William Howard Doane (1832-1915)

Gospel Reading

P: †Peace be with you all.
C: May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word.

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world as recorded by Mark 14:3-9

C: Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent him for our Salvation. May His blessings be ever upon us.

P: In the days of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the blessed Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.

C: So we believe and affirm.
(After reading the Gospel, the priest says, †'Peace be with you all')

C: We thank you , Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the world, that we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which we have now heard.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all world; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified also for us in the days of Pontius Pilate; suffered and died and was buried. The third day He rose again, by His Father's holy will, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead and of His kingdom there will be no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and the apostles. We believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the new life of the world to come. Amen.

(Cong. to be seated)

Birthday & wedding Offertory & Thanksgiving

She only touched the hem of His garment
As to His side she stole,
Amid the crowd that gathered around Him,
And straightway she was whole.

*Oh, touch the hem of His garment!
And thou, too, shalt be free!
His saving power this very hour
Shall give new life to thee!*

She came in fear and trembling before Him,
She knew her Lord had come;
She felt that from Him virtue had healed her,
The mighty deed was done.

He turned with "Daughter, be of good comfort,
Thy faith hath made thee whole!"
And peace that passeth all understanding
With gladness filled her soul.

Lyrics & Music - George Frederick Root (1820-1895)

Offertory

With cheerful songs and hymns of praise,
Our grateful hearts to Him we raise,
Who Leads us on with gentle hand,
And crowns with love Our Christian Band.

*Then gladly let us stand, United heart and hand,
The lost to gather in from sorrow, pain, and sin;
Be this our constant aim—to spread abroad the name
Of Jesus our Redeemer, And His wondrous love proclaim.*

And while we meet together here,
In bounds of love and friendship dear,
Oh, may our prayers like incense rise,

To Him whose grace each need supplies.

O Thou who art the children's Friend,
Our steps direct, our paths defend,
And by Thine own almighty hand
Protect and keep our Christian Band.

Author: Fanny J. Crosby, Composer- Ira D. Sankey

MESSAGE

Video- Watch "Mother Teresa - Inspiring "Everyone, Everywhere"" on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/kd-klHwom7I>

Closing Prayer

P: We come together to give you honour and praise. We ask that you would help us to draw close to you. Please come and speak your words of wisdom into our lives.

C: Help us to embrace one another, our similarities, our differences, our concerns and our joys. We long for your touch on our lives, that we might be your hands and feet to the world. Inspire our hearts, heal our wounds, bring your peace into our worries and your hope into our disappointments. Come Lord and weave your love into our fellowship together, that we may overflow with grace and allow your truth to light up our lives anew. We pray and thank you for all women and their great contributions to this world. Amen.

Benediction

P: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for evermore.

Amen.

Doxology and Kiss of Peace

God be with you till we meet again,
'Neath His wings securely hide you,
Daily manna still provide you,
God be with you till we meet again.

*Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.*

God be with you till we meet again,
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put His loving arms around you,

God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again,
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you,
God be with you till we meet again.

Author: Jeremiah Eames Rankin (1880)

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[Primrose Mar Thoma Church Choir- September 2016- mtcblr@gmail.com](mailto:mtcblr@gmail.com)