

# DEDICATION OF WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

## OPENING PRAYER

PSALM 27 (selected verses)

EPISTLE Philippians 4:1-7

## DEDICATION

L. Lord of light, in the beginning you separated the light from the darkness, and said it was good.

**P. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

L. When Moses and the children of Israel escaped in darkness,

**P. You sent a pillar of flame to light the way.**

L. When we turned away and called for darkness to surround us, you pursued us.

**P. Even the darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is bright as the day.**

L. In a dark stable, your light was born for us in a manger.

**P. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

L. So may the light that shines through these windows be a blessing to us and a reminder of your true light. Use these windows for our inspiration as we remember those whose names are inscribed on them:

Melitable Baker  
Miss Clementina Butler  
Mrs. Clementina Butler  
William Butler  
Mary Lunn  
Isabella Thoburn  
Harriet Merrick Warren  
The donors of the windows

We remember also all the founders of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society and the Deaconess movement.

**P. Their memory is a blessing forever and their loving service lives on in us.**

L. Let us pray.

Eternal God, you are the source of light. You nourish and gladden all things in heaven and on earth. Bless these windows and all those whose skill and care created and restored their beauty. May your light stream through them to shine into our hearts, illumine our way, and lighten the lives of your people.

**P. Almighty God, keep us mindful of the innumerable treasures handed to us from previous generations. May the love to which these women and men testified, and**

which is now preserved in glass, live on in us, so, although we knew them not in our living, we may know them in our services to you. May the light that shined in them, shine through us, and transform us into still greater splendor. Amen.

**HYMN**

A Woman First The Tidings Spread

Carl P. Daw, Jr.



A woman first the tidings spread  
that Christ was risen from the dead,  
and women have in every age  
enriched this holy heritage.

For kindled on that Easter morn  
flamed forth a faith by women borne;  
whose hope and trust still stronger grew  
that God was doing something new.

Such faith has shone by word and deed  
to pierce the gloom of human need  
through ministries that heal and bind  
the ills of body, soul, and mind.

Around the globe, across the street,  
wherever there were needs to meet  
have faithful women sensed a call  
to bear God's saving grace to all.

So let the Church recall and bless  
these women for their faithfulness,  
their visions broad and aims devout,  
their lives through whom the light shines out.

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L. Let us bless the Lord.

P. Thanks be to God.