

Blessing of an Artist's Studio and Anointing of the Artist with Perfumed Oil

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Frank Henderson's Page on Liturgy and Medieval Women
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Introduction

This liturgy is intended to be a model and resource; it needs to be adapted to the circumstances of each individual celebration.

The artist's name is indicated here by "N."

For the sake of simplicity, only feminine pronouns are used here. In the case of a male artist, these will of course be replaced by masculine pronouns

This liturgy is an extension of my "Blessing of Households and Dedication of the Domestic Church," also posted on this website.

“Blessing” and “Anointing”

Part or all of the following may, if desired, be included in any printed program. Alternatively, part or all may be included in a spoken “welcome.”

“Blessing” is used here in three distinct but related ways.

First, we bless God, because this studio and this artist ultimately are gifts of God. We acknowledge and thank God for these gifts.

Second, we ask God’s blessing on this studio and on this artist. We pray that God be present in this place and that enter may be conscious of the presence of God.

Third, we pray that this studio and this artist may be expressions of God’s blessing in society and all of creation.

The blessing of this studio, therefore, has more to do with the artist and the artist’s work here than with the space itself.

Finally, this blessing does not make this studio and this artist “holy” as if they were not already so. Both are already holy because they are part of God’s creation and among God’s gifts. This blessing therefore affirms this holiness and giftedness and gives us an opportunity to express our thanks.

“Anointing” with perfumed oil carries images of hospitality and affirmation, of empowerment and giftedness, of being chosen and accepting responsibility, of grace and graciousness, of clearing of the mind and sharpening of vision, of public work on behalf of the human community and all of creation.

The People Gather Greeting and Welcome

Those gathered are welcomed and greeted graciously,
perhaps along the following lines.

We have come together to give thanks
for this new studio
and for the artist herself
to affirm her artistry,
to admire the space that will facilitate her creativity,
to celebrate with her,
and to anticipate what is to happen here
in the days to come.

Naming the Participants

All may name and introduce themselves in an appropriate way,
perhaps along the following lines:

My name is ____.
I know N. and her work [*more*]
I am proud to participate in this celebration.

God is Blessed for the Studio

Images of God may be selected from the following, and/or others added.

O God, we bless you for this studio,
for you are

Architect of Creation
Divine Potter
Quilter of the Galaxies
Weaver of the Web of Life
Mother of Wisdom
Discerning Heart
Empowering Song
Painter of the Skies
Designer of Land and Sea
[others]

We bless you and give thanks.
Response: Thanks be to God.

Affirmation of the Artist

Images of God's Spirit may be chosen from the following, and/or others added.

N., you have been chosen,
before all ages,
to be an artist:
to have an artist's vision, creativity, courage and skill.

God has shared with you God's own Spirit of

Inspiration
Fire
Glory
Creativity
Vision
Beauty
Boldness
Compassion
New Life
Wholeness.
Courage
[others]

Response: Thanks be to God.

Invoking the Cloud of Witnesses

We gather in the presence of many others besides ourselves --
a great cloud of witnesses --
who are with us in spirit.
They surround us with love and care
and we honor and remember them by now speaking their names.

Parents, Grandparents, other family members

[names]

Teachers, mentors, students and helpers

[names]

Great artists through the centuries who continue to inspire us.

[names]

[Others: names]

Response: Amen *or* Thanks be to God.

Prayer

Let us pray. (*pause for a moment*)

Here in this studio, O God, may N.
exercise her gifts,
stretch her imagination,
deepen her insight,
sharpen her skills,
express her artistry,
delight the senses,
and move the soul
[other images].

Response: Amen

Scripture Readings

Let us now listen to the words of scripture.

A reading from the book of Exodus, chapter 35.

Then Moses said to the Israelites:

See, God has called by name Bezalal [Bez-e-lal] son of Uri son of Hur,
of the tribe of Judah.

God has filled him with divine spirit, with skill, intelligence,
and knowledge in every kind of craft,
to devise artistic designs,
to work in gold, silver and bronze,
in cutting stones for setting,
and in carving wood:
in every kind of craft.

And God has inspired Bezelel to teach,
both him and Oholiab [O-ho-li-ab] son of Ahismach [A-his-mach]
of the tribe of Dan.

and has filled them with skills
to do every kind of work done by an artisan
or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue, purple and crimson yarn,
and in fine linen, or by a weaver.

Continued....

In addition, all the skillful women spun with their hands,
and brought what they had spun in blue linen;
and women whose hearts moved them
used their skill to spin the goats' hair.

Response:

We thank you, O God, for the studio and artistry of Bezelel
and for the women artists and artisans.

We thank you as well for textile artists Tabitha and Lydia,
members of the early church.

Blessing of the Studio by the Gathered Community

All of us are now invited to bless this studio.

We are invited to move around the studio,
acknowledging its north, east, south and west,
its floor, ceiling, walls, windows and door(s),
and all its furnishings.

Look, touch, and speak words of blessing
as you are moved.

You may wish to take off your shoes,
for this is holy ground.

Anointing of The Artist with Perfumed Oil

Jesus Christ, Anointed One,
we bless you, for you are God's Word and Wisdom.
Encourage, empower and energize N.
as we anoint her in your name
and in the power of God's Spirit.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Continued....

Blessing of the Perfumed Oil

Blessed are you, Holy God,
you created spice-bearing plants
and oil-bearing trees,
and saw that it was good.

Your gift of holy wisdom
is as fragrant as choice myrrh;
she is like perfume
and the aroma of incense.

We give thanks for Judith,
who anointed herself with precious ointment,
liberated her people from the Assyrians,
and went before all the people in dance.

We give thanks for Esther,
who was treated with oil of myrrh and perfumes,
became Queen of Persia
and liberated her people.

We give thanks for David,
who was anointed King --
and the spirit of God
came upon him mightily.

We give thanks for Jesus,
who was anointed by faithful, loving women.

Bless us and this oil,
that in our use of it you may be blessed.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Anointing of the Artist

The artist may anoint herself on hands, forehead, or both, in silence, or with appropriate words.

Others may anoint the artist on hands or forehead or both, in silence, or with appropriate words.

Hopes and Dreams

People may share hopes and dreams for this studio, for N., and for her art.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Prayers of intercessions and thanksgiving may be offered.

Concluding Blessing

May God bless N.
with creativity and insight.
Response: Amen

May God's Word, Jesus Christ, bless N.
with vision and wisdom.
Response: Amen.

May the God's Holy Spirit bless N.
with energy and courage.

Response: Amen.

Other words of blessing may be spoken.

The Celebration Continues

All present may share conversation and refreshments.