Gathering Prayer

MMOC Workshop for Proclaimers, November 2019

Patrick Yours is a share

 in the work of the Lord’s Spirit

 who opens our hearts to God’s holy word.

Karen Yours is the task of telling our family story,

 the story of salvation.

Patrick Your is to proclaim

 the true and saving word of God.

Karen You are the messenger of God’s love for us.

Patrick Your task is to proclaim that word,

 which challenges, confronts,

 and captures our hearts.

Karen You proclaim a word

 that heals and comforts and consoles.

Patrick Yours is the ministry

 of the table of God’s word,

 which feeds the hungers and the longing

 of our hearts for truth.

Karen Yours is to offer the story

 of the “great things the Lord has done for us,”

 that we might turn to the table of eucharist

 with good cause to give thanks and praise.

Patrick Yours is nothing less

 than the ministry of the Lord’s voice

 calling out in the midst of God’s people.

Karen Come to your work

 from your personal prayer,

 praying that the Spirit

 will open your heart to what you proclaim.

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Patrick Prepare the word which is yours to speak:

 study the scriptures,

 understand the passage,

 let it dwell deep within you.

Karen Come to your work in awesome reverence

 of the word you proclaim:

 it is the Lord’s word.

Patrick Come to your ministry

as one judged and saved

 by the word you speak.

Karen Anyone can read the scriptures in public;

 only the believer can proclaim them.

Patrick Approach the ambo,

 the table of the Lord’s word,

 as you would the Lord himself:

 with reverence and awe.

Karen Handle the book of the Lord’s word

with great care:

it is a tabernacle of the Lord’s presence.

**-** from **The Lector’s Ministry, by Austin Fleming**

 The Pastoral Press, Washington, DC, 1985

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Concluding Prayer

MMOC Workshop for Proclaimers, November 2019

Patrick Yours is a share

 in the work of the Lord’s Spirit

 who opens our hearts to God’s holy word.

Karen Let your eyes fall often

 on the faces of the assembly:

 they are the body of the Lord

 whose word you proclaim.

Patrick Let the Lord’s peace settle in your heart,

 that your voice may be clear and steady.

Karen Let your voice echo the sound of the word,

 with conviction, with gentleness,

 with strength, and with wonder.

Patrick Remember that the story you tell

 is filled with a drama you need not supply,

 but must always convey.

Karen Like the prophet,

 you will sometimes proclaim

 what no one wants to hear;

 remember always

 your own need to hear the hard saying,

 and never imagine that your ministry

 places you above what you proclaim.

Patrick If other proclaimers ask for your guidance

 be gentle in helping them to improve.

 If you are new to this ministry,

 Seek out that help which others can give.

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Karen If you do not know how well you read—ask:

 be grateful for constructive criticism

 and humbled by any praise you receive.

Patrick Let no minister of the word

think that there is nothing left to learn:

another commentary and another workshop

cannot but help the open mind and heart.

Karen When your brothers and sisters

 praise and thank you for your work,

 take delight in the word they have heard

 and rejoice in the work

 the Lord has accomplished through you.

Patrick Be faithful in the work you do,

 for through it the Lord saves his people.

 (Amen.)

**-** from **The Lector’s Ministry, by Austin Fleming**

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