

Prayer of Confession

Men: When we have taken our power for granted
as if our strength and privilege were the experience of all
We ask for forgiveness

**All We shall grow together
as we share our struggles and our hope.**

Women: When we have colluded with male power and privilege
accepting it without question or manipulating it without open challenge
We ask for forgiveness

**All We shall grow together
as we share our struggles and our hope.**

Men: When we have denied our vulnerability
or looked to women to restore to us our buried feelings
We ask for forgiveness

**All We shall grow together
as we share our struggles and our hope.**

Women: When we have denied our strength
hiding it from ourselves and fearing the cost of change
We ask for forgiveness

**All We shall grow together
as we share our struggles and our hope.**

**All When we have too easily accepted established patterns
and evaded our own responsibility for change.
God, forgive us.
Help us to grow together
as we share our struggles and our hopes. Amen**

A Litany for the women of exodus

Exodus 1.8 – 2.10; 2.16-22; 15.20-21; Num 12; Num 27.1-11

For women working within the system
ingenuously subverting the establishment
refusing the tyranny of oppression
with the smiles of feigned innocence:

**For those who are midwives of the future
we praise the God of our liberation.**

For women keeping the tradition alive,
telling their stories and singing their songs,
cradling the future with wisdom
and singing lullabies of hope;

**For those who nurture dreams of freedom
we praise the God of our liberation.**

For women exercising leadership and authority,
balancing the ambiguities of status,
risking their hard-won privilege
in alliance with the oppressed:

**For those who sustain power with wisdom
we praise the God of our liberation.**

For women welcoming the stranger,
offering refuge from violence,
providing home and safety
and a place to gather strength:

**For those who shelter the survivors
we praise the God of our liberation.**

For women who are bold in action,
leading others in new pathways,
taking initiative and disregarding risk
to celebrate the dignity of freedom:

**For those who lead out the captives
we praise the God of our liberation.**

For women working without recognition
demanding acknowledgment for their work
and making their voices heard
at the risk of exclusion:

**for those daring to claim authority
we praise the God of our liberation.**

For women speaking up for their rights,
resisting the injustice of patriarchy,
claiming their rights to ownership
and naming themselves as heirs of the promise:

**For those who come into their inheritance
we praise the God of our liberation.**

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Sister/brother God

Sister God, you have given women strength
to make and sustain the beauty of creation
to claim the wholeness of your image
to live and grow in freedom and courage.
Sister God, we thank you for your gifts.

Brother God, you have given men strength
to make and sustain the beauty of creation
to claim the wholeness of your image
to live and grow in freedom and courage.
Brother God, we thank you for your gifts.

Brother God, you have given men vulnerability
to admit pain and weariness
to know the frustration of helplessness
to weep and touch with tenderness.
Brother God, we thank you for your gifts.

Sister God, you have given women vulnerability
to rage with the pain of injustice
to know anger and a desire for change
to suffer and labour with you for the freedom of the world.
Sister God, we thank you for your gifts.

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