



AN ORDER FOR THE BLESSING OF NEW WOMANHOOD

The women gather. Hymns may be sung.

A candle is lit, and a small candle is presented.

In your light, O God, we see light.

We light this candle to remind us of God's presence among us and within us. May you never hide your light but let it shine for all the world to see.

In your light, O God, we see light.

A mug of tea is poured, and a tea bag is presented.

Be sure you have a comfortable cup of tea for them when I am gone.

We pour this tea as a reminder of the warmth of the hospitality of sisters who embrace us in the circle of womanhood. May you always make space for others.

Be sure you have a comfortable cup of tea for them when I am gone.

Earrings are given.

All glorious is the princess as she enters; her gown is cloth of gold.

We give these earrings as a symbol of the joy of beautiful things. May you remember that the measure of your true beauty is found inside you.

All glorious is the princess as she enters; her gown is cloth of gold.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom is given.

I called on God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.

We give this reading as a symbol of knowledge and wisdom. May you never stop learning.

I called on God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.

A red "egg" is given.

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord."

We give this red "egg" in memory of the one who was called by name, who did not fear to speak her truth even when she was dismissed as an uppity woman. May you always claim your voice.

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord."

A washcloth is given.

...washed in Baptism...

We give you this washcloth as a reminder of your Baptism. May you experience the tradition of the bath as a womb; slip under the water and emerge, reborn, into a new month of living and a new season of your life.

...washed in Baptism...

Oil is marked on head and hands.

...and marked as Christ's own forever.

We anoint you with this perfumed oil in the name of the One who creates, redeems and sustains us. May you always know that no matter your age you will always be a precious child of God.

...and marked as Christ's own forever.

Go in peace, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit that surrounds you and protects you always.

Thanks be to God.

Communion may be celebrated. Hymns may be sung. A festive meal may be shared. The women depart.

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A form of this service originally was developed as a blessing for a girl at the onset of menstruation in an effort to reframe and reclaim this life transition as a blessing rather than a curse by welcoming the girl into the sisterhood of women. The various presentations and accompanying prayers may be adapted to suit particular circumstances or may provide a framework for marking other transitions in a woman's life such as motherhood or menopause.

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