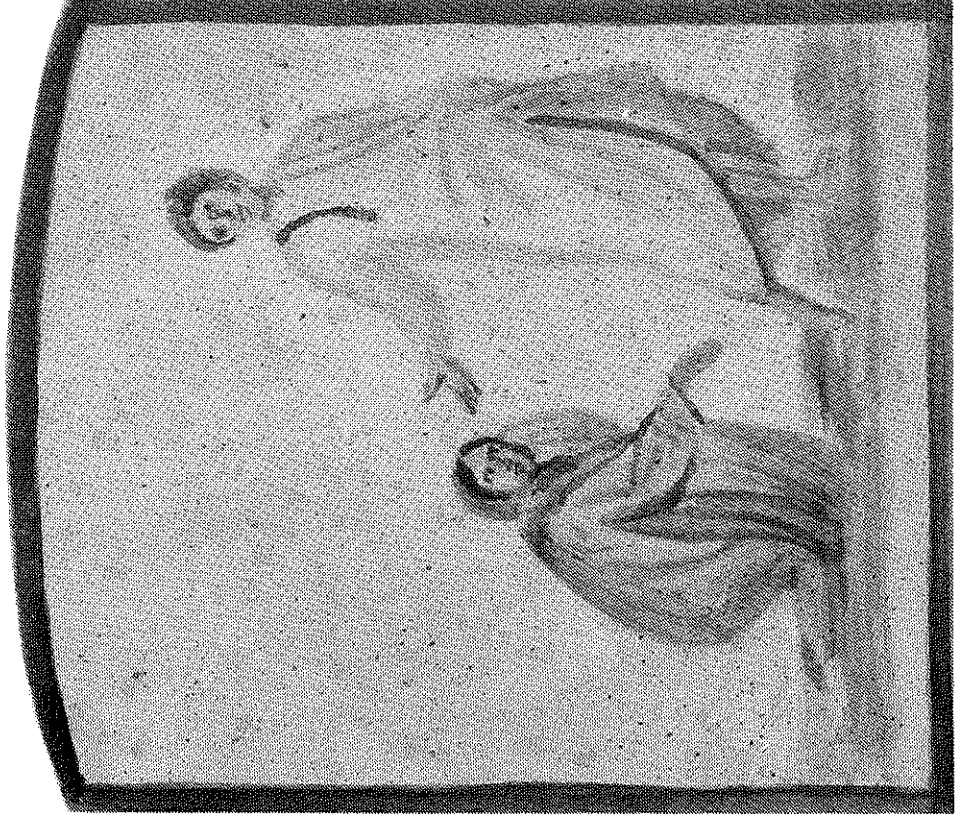


# *Women and the Word*

*Touching the Garment - March 19-20, 1987*



*from a fourth-century catacomb painting*

**WOMEN AND THE WORD: TOUCHING THE GARMENT**

Thursday, March 19, 1987  
10:00 a.m.  
Marsh Chapel, Boston University

The Music for Gathering  
Hymns written by women

The Call To Worship

Leader: Blessed be the Name of God, who made  
heaven and earth!

PEOPLE: AND BLESSED BE GOD'S SOVEREIGN REIGN NOW  
AND FOREVER!

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the  
love of God and the communion of the Holy  
Spirit be with you all.

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

The Hymn

The Methodist Hymnal #47  
God Of Our Life Through All The Circling Years

The Prayer Of Invocation

The Prayer of Confession (seated)

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive  
ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

PEOPLE: IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, GOD IS FAITHFUL  
AND WILL FORGIVE OUR SINS, AND CLEANSE  
US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

Leader: Dear friends, let us ask God for the for-  
giveness we need.

PEOPLE: MERCIFUL GOD, WE KNOW THAT YOU LOVE US,  
AND THAT YOU CALL US TO FULLNESS OF  
LIFE, BUT AROUND US AND WITHIN US WE  
SEE THE BROKENNESS OF OUR WORLD AND  
OUR WAYS. OUR SUCCESSES LEAVE US  
EMPTY, OUR PROGRESS DOES NOT SATISFY,

Cover Design: This is a reproduction of an early fourth century catacomb painting from the cemetery of SS Pietro and Marcellino in Rome. It depicts the woman who touches the hem of Jesus' garment and is healed. The painting is one of a series depicting women and their faith, including the Samaritan woman, the healing of the bent woman, and a woman leading prayer. It is exciting to note that the artist obviously recognized the centrality of women in the pre-Constantinian church. It is our great loss that, when the Church became "official" a few years later, scenes like these disappeared.

AND OUR PROSPEROUS LAND IS NOT THE  
PROMISED LAND OF OUR LONGING. FORGIVE  
OUR WILLFUL NEGLECT OF YOUR WORD, OUR  
INSENSITIVITY TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS,  
AND OUR FAILURE TO FEED THE SPIRIT THAT  
IS WITHIN US: THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR  
REDEEMER. AMEN.

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person  
altogether; the past is finished and  
gone, everything has become fresh and  
new.

PEOPLE: WE BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL;  
IN JESUS CHRIST WE ARE FORGIVEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator,  
Who is in heaven,  
hallowed be Your name.  
Your reign come,  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil  
for Yours is the reign and the power  
and the glory forever. Amen.

The Anthem "The Invitation" A. MacKenzie

Ann MacKenzie, soprano  
Pam Estes, flute  
Laura Jaquith, piano

The Scripture Readings

The Prophecy of Isaiah 55:6-13  
The Letter to the Galatians 3:1-6, 10-14, 23-29  
The Gospel of Mark 5:25-34

The Sermon The Rev. Ansley Coe Throckmorton

"Touching the Garment"

The Affirmation of Faith

We are the people of God.  
We are a sign of the New World.  
We are the sisters and brothers of Jesus.  
We believe in God. We believe in the good-  
ness of God, the presence of God in human  
history, and the nearness of God's love.  
We believe in Christ. We believe that God  
was and is revealed in human life, that out  
of human suffering may come rescue and heal-  
ing, that out of death comes new life.  
We believe in the Eternal Spirit, Who moves  
among God's people and invites the world  
into God's reign. We believe that the  
world can change, that peace and wholeness  
can come, and that the New World can arrive.  
We are the people of God.  
We are the sign of the New World.  
We are the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

The Prayers

The Hymn

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

Festal Song

Rise up, O saints of God!  
From vain ambitions turn;  
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts  
With nobler zeal might burn.

Speak out, O saints of God!  
Despair engulfs earth's frame;  
As heirs of God's baptismal grace,  
The word of hope proclaim.

Rise up, O saints of God!  
God's rule and task embrace;  
Redress sin's cruel consequence;  
Give justice larger place.

Give heed, O saints of God!  
Creation cries in pain;  
Stretch forth your hand of healing now,  
With love the weak sustain.

Commit your hearts to seek  
The paths which Christ has trod  
And quickened by the Spirit's power,  
Rise up, O saints of God!

The Benediction

The Postlude

Fantasy

Dr. Linda Clark  
Nancy Telfer

In the tradition of Marsh Chapel, you are invited  
to remain seated during the postlude.

The Affirmation of Faith is reprinted by permission of the publisher; it is taken from Flames of the Spirit, ed. Ruth C. Duck. Copyright 1985, The Pilgrim Press.

"Rise Up, O Saints of God" is taken from the Lutheran Book of Worship; it is copied with permission.

The participants in this morning's service are Ellen Casey, Linda Clark, Pamela Estes, Young Kim Hong, Shirley Hoover, Laura Jaquith, Ann McKenzie, Immani-Sheila Newsome, Diane Rew-Godfried, Nancy Rodriguez, and Ansley Coe Throckmorton.

Funding for 'Women and The Word': Arthur Vining Davis, son of a Congregational minister and president of the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa), placed emphasis upon higher education and religious activities in his philanthropic philosophy. Today, the leadership of the Foundations remains firmly committed to "honorable service to society" in his memory.

In the field of religion, the Foundations' principle commitment is to graduate theological education. Grants are generally awarded to schools known for academic excellence and for possessing a solid record of financial stability. Proposals are also presumed to be for projects considered to be of top priority or need by the head of the institution.

The Anna Howard Shaw Center is grateful to Arthur Vining Davis Foundations' for a two-year grant for the 'Women and the Word' preaching seminar.

# Women and the Word Touching the Garment

March 19-20, 1987

Sponsored by the Anna Howard Shaw Center  
Boston University School of Theology



Through proclaiming the word, we continue to touch the garment of Christ. The task of the preacher is to bring "the garment" into the reach of, or at least make it visible to, the believer (Mark 5:24-34). The Shaw Center's Third Annual Preaching Event for both women and men will focus on pastoral preaching and on affirming the unique gifts women bring to the proclamation of the word.

## Meet the pastoral preachers :

**The Reverend Ansley Coe Throckmorton** is General Secretary of the Division of Education and Publication of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ. A well-known preacher and educator, she has served as a pastor in Maine, and as supervisor in the pastoral education program at Bangor Theological Seminary. Ms. Throckmorton is active at regional, national, and international levels in her denomination. Presently, she is vice president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. In 1981, the UCC honored her with its Antoinette Brown Award. Ms. Throckmorton received a B.A. degree from Wellesley, an M.Div. from Bangor Theological Seminary, and has studied at New York City's Union Theological Seminary, Andover-Newton Theological School, and Princeton Theological Seminary.

**The Reverend Ruthenia Finley** is in her fourth year as pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Brooklyn, New York. She is program chairperson of the New York Annual Conference Sessions Committee, is on the board of the UM City Society, and is Dean of the New York Conference School of Christian Mission. After graduation from Fordham, Ms. Finley received her M.Div. from Duke and is currently working toward her D.Min. at Drew.

**The Reverend Vicki Woods** is a UM pastor in the Maine Conference. She has taught a homiletics course at BUSTh and will be preaching at the UM Clergy Women's Convocation this year. Along with serving on the Conference and District Board of Ordained Ministry, Ms. Woods is Dean of the Pastor's Assembly for the Boston area. She received her B.S. from Ball State, an M.C.E.D. from Scarritt, and her M.Div. from BUSTh.

**The Reverend Ruth Duck** is a UCC clergyperson now working on a Doctor of Theology degree in worship and theology at BUSTh. She has served as pastor of churches in Massachusetts and Wisconsin, and as a teaching assistant at BUSTh. With Micheal Basch, Ms. Duck has coedited *Everflowing Streams: Songs for Worship*, and has edited *Bread for the Journey: Resources for Worship* and *Flames of the Spirit: Resources for Worship*. In 1983, Chicago Theological Seminary (her alma mater) awarded her an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in recognition of her work as pastor and writer.

**Ms. Valerie Stiteler** is reading for a Doctorate of Theology degree at the BUSTh. Ms. Stiteler is a minister awaiting call in the UCC. She belongs to the Mercersburg Society, the Massachusetts Conference Worship Committee of the UCC, and the Community of Hagar. She also consults for the Healing Community and sits on the Executive Board of the Protestant Guild for the Blind. Ms. Stiteler anticipates publication of a liturgy in a book of worship resources to be published by Pilgrim Press.

*This event is made possible by a grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation.*