

A Litany for Actors

Invitation

Leader: Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us.

All: Yes, establish the work of our hands.

Leader:

Come, you who are called to be actors, theatre-makers, and storytellers,
 come, you who hold the world in holy wonder,
Come as ones who are gifted with Truth-telling
 to reveal beauty, to heal pain.

Come as you are now,
 no editing needed.

Come as vessels formed with purposeful care,
 come with your flesh and bone—

Step into the long tradition of this craft,
 partake in Life given and Life received in its fullest.

Come, beloved, this table is for you.

Leader: Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us.

All: Yes, establish the work of our hands.

Commissioning

Leader: Hear this story of commissioning as it was given to the artisans of Israel in the time of Moses during the building of the Tabernacle:

Then Moses said to the Israelites: See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel son of Uri son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; he 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 he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. He has filled them with skill to do every kind of work done by an artisan or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue, purple, and

crimson yarns, and in fine linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of artisan or skilled designer. [Exodus 35:30-35]

This is actually the first time in Scripture anyone is described as filled with the Holy Spirit, and you are a part of this tradition of artists: you are a part of the making, building, imagining, and telling of God's story in all its facets and forms.

So as we remember the value of Bezalel and Oholiab's creativity, receive this also as your calling:

Look! God has called you by name. He has filled you with God's Spirit, gifted you with wisdom, understanding, and with skills in a variety of crafts, to devise artistic designs, to work in script, movement, and voice, to fashion stories for stage and screen, and to affirm Life as it is given to us in this world. Prophets of this time, you carry the tradition of so many before you. What you do is needed and valuable in this world. So may it be that you will go and be makers in the name of the Lord.

Leader: Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us, (together we say...)

All: Yes, establish the work of our hands.

Anointing of Hands

Leader: As we prepare for anointing, let us stretch out our hands to receive these words:

*Now is the time to know
that all you do, all you speak, all you commit yourself to, is sacred.*

All of Life is to be held in anointed hands.

You are now invited to come forward for the anointing of hands.

Blessing:

**May your hands be blessed with beauty, grace, and truth.
May you know how deeply God delights in you and your work.**

