

**AN ORDER FOR THE BLESSING OF YOUNG PILGRIMS  
AND  
COMMISSIONING OF THEIR ADULT LEADERS\***

**The Presentation**

*Katie Lawrence, director of youth, presents the Pilgrims and their Leaders to the Officiant, saying*

I present to you Eric Anderson, Laura Leigh Fox, Natalya Haas, Allison Howard, Ansley McAlister, Scott Moore, and Christine Shaw to be sent forth as pilgrims from this church, and Randy Bewley, Julie Miller, and Terri Tillman to be commissioned as their leaders and chaperones.

*Officiant:* Have these persons whom you present at this time been duly prepared to make a holy pilgrimage?

*Presenter:* By their steadfast and diligent attendance in the Journey to Adulthood program, we believe that they have been so prepared.

**The Charge to the Pilgrims**

*Officiant:* Beloved in Christ, making a pilgrimage to holy places is an ancient discipline. Over the centuries, faithful people have journeyed forth, leaving the security of home and hearth, to seek God in these places. Finding God there, they have returned to their homes to find that God is there also. Eric, Laura Leigh, Natalya, Allison, Ansley, Scott, and Christine, you have been called by the Holy Spirit to make a pilgrimage to San Francisco. Are you aware of the solemn nature of this undertaking?

*Pilgrims:* We are.

*Officiant:* I charge you, therefore, to use this opportunity to draw closer to God and to discern the presence of Christ in your lives; to be steadfast in prayer, constantly seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit; to obey your leaders and those set in authority over you; and, remembering that you are ambassadors of Emmanuel Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Atlanta, to so conduct yourselves that you reflect the Christ within yourselves and bring credit on these institutions.

*Pilgrims:* We will strive to do so, with God's help.

**The Examination of the Adult Leaders and Chaperones**

*Officiant:* Julie, Randy, and Terri, you have been chosen to accompany these pilgrims as their leaders and chaperones. Will you do all in your power to guide, guard, tend, and protect these young men and women entrusted to your care?

*Leaders:* I will, with God's help.

*Officiant:* Recalling the vows you made in the Baptismal Covenant, and recognizing that they are made in the image of God, male and female, will you respect their dignity at all times?

*Leaders:* I will, with God's help.

*Officiant:* Will you who witness these vows undertake to support these persons in prayer throughout their pilgrimage?

*Congregation:* We will.

### **The Prayers**

V. Send out your light and your truth that they may lead me,

R. And bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

*A person appointed leads the following Litany for Pilgrims. The congregation reads the parts in italics.*

Control them, O God,  
gently, pervasively, irresistibly, increasingly,  
so that they walk their pilgrim way  
steadily, and in a sure light.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Control them, O God,  
so that they neither dally nor disobey,  
nor slip aside, nor stand still, nor sink down.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Control them, O God,  
by the pulse of your Presence,  
by your brightness about them;

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Control them, O God,  
by the spur of spiritual longing  
after your holy praise,  
after the image of your Son;

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Control them, O God,  
so that they move onward and upward with a song  
and with melody in their hearts.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Then, O God, change control into embrace,  
lest they ever deny their truest will,  
so that they cannot forget or fall away,  
so that the world cannot entrap the pilgrims  
and steal their glory.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Officiant*

O God, whom to see is the end and the beginning, we entrust these pilgrims to your loving and merciful care. Support them in this time as they walk the pilgrim way in your light and your Presence. Let your loving care enfold them, and those who love them and whom they leave behind. This we ask in the name of him who walked the pilgrim path even to Jerusalem, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **The Sending Forth and Commissioning**

*The Pilgrims and their Leaders kneel before the Officiant who lays hands on them individually, saying*

N., in the Name of God and of this church, I send you forth as a pilgrim (commission you as a pilgrimage leader). God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit be with you to guide and protect you now and always. *Amen.*

### **The Blessing**

The Pilgrims and their Leaders stand; the Officiant blesses them, saying  
The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. *Amen.*

*The ceremony concludes with the Exchange of the Peace and the handing out of an appropriate symbol, such as airline tickets or blank journals.*

\* From "The Prayer" by Eric Milner-White, Dean of York from 1941-1963, in Prayers for Pilgrims, edited by Margaret Pauley (London, SPCK, 1991). Adapted by David Crean.