

HYMN for a PROFESSION

When there is a weighty mission, when there is a stubborn need,
God looks 'round to find the people who will stand and take the lead.
These are men and women of faith, whose willing answer startles us,
shakes us from our apathy and helps us to be generous.

When the world is torn and broken, when the path of grace seems lost,
deep within the Church is heard the call to serve and not count cost.
Then from pews and from the altar come the willing, come the strong-
risking all to serve the God whose voice has led them all along.

When we seem to know our purpose, when we think we understand,
could it be that God is calling us to open up our hands?
Could we be the ones to lead, to give new voice to God's good news?
Will we let our hands be free to do what God would have us do?

So today we celebrate the vows that bind a heart of flesh
to the heart within the Godhead, to the love forever fresh.
Mercy calls us, mercy finds us, mercy shapes us in God's Word,
takes us well beyond our limits out to teach and heal and serve.

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Alternate verses for verse 4:

University or College Presidency

So today we come together, grateful to inaugurate
one whose leadership will help us in our call to educate.
May God bless our knowledge, insights, skills and visions for this time,
strengthen our compassion and our service to all humankind.

For a Community Assembly

This is time for celebrating, this is time to offer praise
to our God whose love has showered blessings in these hope-filled days.
Task complete, we venture forth to seek God's will, to find God's face
present in this world of need that waits for Mercy's gentle grace.