

GOLDEN CHAIN OF FRIENDSHIP SERVICE

This service was composed for a special combined chapter meeting held on Monday, 15 April, 1991. Glenmore Chapter No 170 was honoured at this special meeting by the presence of the following distinguished visitors.

Most Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Madge Van Wienan
Worthy Grand Secretary, Sister Elaine O'Brien (PMWGM)
Worthy Grand Electa, Sister Rita Murray (PWGM)
Worthy Grand Warder, Sister Margaret Lavaring (PWGM)
Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Leslie Smith
Worthy District Grand Matron, Sister Bea Horne
Worthy District Grand Patron, Brother Arnold Horne
Worthy District Grand Secretary, Brother Colin Stebbins
Worthy Matron, Sister Claudia Large, Rockhampton 145
Worthy Patron, Brother James Large, Rockhampton 145
Worthy Matron, Sister Enid Macdonald, Mt Morgan 158
Worthy Patron, Brother Robert Macdonald, Mt Morgan 158
HOSTS- Worthy Matron, Sister Sorelle Smith, Glenmore 170
Worthy Patron, Brother Max Smith, Glenmore 170

REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE-

1. 18m Gold ribbon chain
2. Gold covered box to hold chain
(To be placed on Adah's right)
3. Flowers for points

SONGS-

God of Mercy, God of Might (To tune of 'Just as I am')
Star in the East

Accompanying diagram shows positions for visiting points, and positions to be taken up by visiting Worthy Matrons.

WORTHY MATRON (Glenmore)

Along the journey one takes through life we find the way is often crossed with bright rays of sunshine. These golden rays mark the special moments when a friend has reached out a hand to help in a time of sudden need, or just been there to share the thoughts, hopes, fears and laughter that make up life. Each golden beam meets a friend so dear, and links with others, forming a golden chain of friendship through our lives. And throughout the Order of the Eastern Star are many, many golden links; true friends to cherish and respect.

Let us seek the blessing of Him from whom cometh all wisdom and strength. Let us unite in prayer. * * *

CHAPLAIN

O Lord our God in heaven above, who made us in thine own image, we humbly ask thy blessing on all those assembled here tonight. Help us to remember the heart and very essence of the obligation, that we love one another, as Christ himself loved us. Grant that our eyes may see the way to walk, linked in the Golden Chain of Friendship with Thee. Amen.

So may it ever be.

* Seat the Chapter.

WORTHY PATRON
(Glenmore)

Looking round the Chapter Room tonight I see gathered here the many Sisters and Brothers of our beautiful Order. Will each of you extend to the other a sign of Christian Charity and Hospitality, and thus bind the links of our golden chain secure. Would each of you shake hands with your nearest Sister or Brother and say, "So may it ever be"?

WORTHY MATRON
(Glenmore)

We will now join together to sing the hymn on the sheet. * * * - Raise the Chapter

HYMN

God of Mercy, God of Might
* - Seat the Chapter.

WORTHY MATRON
(Rockhampton)

(Stands and says-)
'Fairest Among Thousands, Altogether Lovely' represents the floral centre of the Chapter, whose colours and emblems symbolise the sublime virtues of the heroines of our Order. (Sit)

WORTHY MATRON
(Mt Morgan)

(Stands and says-)
The five rays of our central Star are endowed with beauty and instruction. From them emanates a light, - a message, - and joy. (Sit)

NOTE - Each Point moves to her position to say her part, and remains standing to pass the chain along to the next speaker, as required, and to keep the chain moving as needed.

ADAH (1)
(Glenmore)

(Stands, picks up end of chain - holds in both hands)
In a beam of sunshine that comes from skies of blue, God's gift of friendship is a strong and blessed tie that links us in His love.

ADAH (2)
(Rockhampton)

(Holds flower)
Blue symbolises Fidelity to convictions of right and duty, and reminds us to be understanding and kind in friendship's cause. (Places flower on altar - returns to station - takes chain in both hands)

ADAH (3)
(Mt Morgan)

(Gives the sign of the degree - then says-)
Friendship, true friendship is like the beautiful, violet shadows of evening, which spread and grow deeper with time passing, but cannot be destroyed. (Takes chain in both hands.)

RUTH (1)
(Glenmore)

(Takes chain in both hands)
The rich, bright gold of barley is mirrored in our chain, and through the troubles of our world, true friendship shines like gold.

RUTH (2)
(Rockhampton)

(Holds flower)
Yellow symbolises Constancy with faithful obedience to the Word of God, and reminds us friendship is a priceless gift that cannot be bought or sold. (Places flower on altar - returns to station - takes chain in both hands.)

- RUTH (3)
(Mt Morgan) (Gives the sign of the degree - then says-)
The yellow spray of Jessamine is rich with life and promise. Count your blessings and let your heart sing. There is nothing on earth more worthwhile than to promise and give friendship. (Takes chain)
- ESTHER (1)
(Rockhampton) (Takes chain in both hands)
Where there is friendship the heart is light, the day is bright and everything seems more beautiful. Darkness is cast out by a pure white light.
- ESTHER (2)
(Glenmore) (Holds flower)
White symbolises Light, Purity and Joy and reminds us that love and friendship can transform everything into beauty and grace with its power. (Places flower on altar - return to station - takes chain in both hands)
- ESTHER (3)
(Mt Morgan) (Gives the sign of the degree - then says-)
The sun rises in the morning and sends its warmth over the freshness of the dawn. The dew sparkling on the grass reflects the Light and Joy of friendship unselfishly given in a myriad of ways. (Takes chain.)
- MARTHA (1)
(Mt Morgan) (Takes chain in both hands)
Give thanks and praise for the wonderful things around you! Give thanks and praise for all that is lovely, sweet and true! Give a smile and show you care. Reach out a helping hand of friendship.
- MARTHA (2)
(Glenmore) (Holds flower)
Green symbolises a trustful Faith and Hope of Immortality, and reminds us of the uncertainty of human life. So let us live and give our best - and give it willingly. (Places flower on altar - return to station - takes chain in both hands)
- MARTHA (3)
(Rockhampton) (Gives the sign of the degree - then says -)
As a symbol of Innocence, the Lamb is not touched by the greed, fear and hatred of the vast and busy world. Faith and trust in God's wisdom will pave the way for you. (Takes chain in both hands.)
- ELECTA (1)
(Rockhampton) (Takes chain)
Life is a mixture of sunshine and rain, of laughter and pleasure, of tears and pain. The Star in the East gives light and strength. So open your eyes and look all about you - for a friend with a heart much like your own.
- ELECTA (2)
(Mt Morgan) (Holds flower)
Red symbolises a fervence for Truth, and reminds us of God's Charity and a message send to us all: to 'love one another for love is of God'. (Places flower on altar - return to station - takes chain)
- ELECTA (3)
(Glenmore) (Gives the sign of the degree - then says -)
Courage, my friends. We can never find reasons for life's emptiness. Look at others and you will see not strangers, but understanding Sisters and Brothers. (Takes chain in both hands.)

NOTE - At this stage the chain should complete the semi-circle from Adah to Electa. Both Adah and Electa should each have about 3 to 4 metres of chain to reach to the MWDGM at the dias. If this is not so, would all points please quietly assist in making the necessary adjustments by passing the chain in the required direction.

WORTHY MATRON (Glenmore) Sister Marshal, would you please escort Sister Large, Worthy Matron of Rockhampton Chapter, to her place between Adah and the Dias.

MARSHAL Goes to the East, bows, and escorts Sister Large to her place. Marshal then resumes her own station.

WORTHY MATRON (Rockhampton) Among the great and glorious gifts our heavenly Father sends, is the gift of understanding that we find in loving friends. For in this world of trouble that is filled with anxious care, everyone needs a friend, a friend with whom they can share. (Takes from Adah, the end of the chain in both hands.)

WORTHY MATRON (Glenmore) Sister Marshal, would you please escort Sister Macdonald Worthy Matron of Mt Morgan Chapter, to her place between Sister Large and the Dias.

MARSHAL Goes to the East, bows, and escorts Sister Macdonald to her place. Marshal then resumes her own station.

WORTHY MATRON (Mt Morgan) So when we need some sympathy or a friendly hand to touch, or an ear that listens tenderly, and speaks words that mean so much, we seek our true and trusted friend in the knowledge that we will find a heart that is sympathetic, and an understanding mind. (Takes the end of the chain from Sister Large and holds in both hands.)

WORTHY MATRON (Glenmore) Sister Marshal, would you please escort Sister Horne, Worthy District Grand Matron, to her place between Electa and the Dias.

MARSHAL Goes to the East, bows, and escorts Sister Horne, to her place. Marshal then resumes her own station.

WORTHY DISTRICT GRAND MATRON So let us open up our hearts and look at life a-new. Every day's a good day to lose yourself in others; and any time a good time to see all mankind as friends. Everyone needs someone, and that someone could be you.

With the help of Sister Macdonald we will take the two ends of the chain to Sister Smith at the Dias. (Sister Horne and Sister Macdonald approach the Dias and hand the ends of the chain to Sister Smith. They then return to their positions.)

WORTHY MATRON
(Glenmore)

And so our Golden Chain of Friendship is almost complete.

(Tie both ends of the chain together)

The last links are now closed, and I place in the hands of the Most Worthy Grand Matron the continuous chain of fellowship and love that are the hallmarks of our beautiful Order. May the welfare and prosperity of our Order shine brightly into the future.

Would all Office-bearers of all Chapters take up their positions forming a semi-circle on the outside of the Star; link hands; and let us all sing Star of the East.

* * * - Raise Chapter.

STAR OF THE EAST

* - Seat Chapter

Would the Office-bearers resume their seats in the Chapter Room. The Golden Chain can now be placed on the floor. Would the Sisters of our floral centre please be seated or take your seats in the Chapter room.

Sister Marshal, would you please escort the Worthy District Grand Matron to her seat in the East.
Sister Conductress, would you please escort the Worthy Matron of Rockhampton Chapter to her seat in the East.
Sister Associate Conductress, would you please escort the Worthy Matron of Mt Morgan Chapter to her seat in the East.

WORTHY MATRON
(Glenmore)

A most fitting way to close this service comes from the scriptures. Let us consider the Gospel according to St Matthew, Chapter 25, Verse 40-

Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my bretheren Ye have done it unto me.

That concludes our Golden Chain of Friendship Service.

~~W.M.~~ W.M. W.P.

BDGM X

X ~~MEMBER~~

~~CHAPLAIN~~

~~MARSHAL~~

X ~~ROCKHAMPTON W.M.~~

ELECTA ~~G.~~ (3)

G. ~~ADA H.~~ (1)

~~G. M. M.~~

~~R. (2)~~

~~(1) R.~~

ALTAR

~~M. M. (3)~~

~~(3) R.~~

MARTHA ~~G.~~ (2)

G. ~~RUTH~~

~~(1) R.~~

~~R. (2)~~

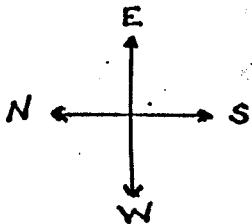
~~(1) R.~~

~~G. ESTHER~~

~~R. (2)~~

~~M. M. (3)~~

AP AM



ASSOCIATE
CONDUCTRESS

CONDUCTRESS

- ~~Rockhampton Chapter Worthy Matron and Office Bearers~~
- ~~Mt. Morgan Chapter Worthy Matron and Office Bearers~~
- ~~Glenmore Chapter Worthy Matron and Office Bearers~~
- Burnett District Grand Matron
- Most Worthy Grand Matron