

A Worship to Inherit

By Sera Chung and Rhashell D. Hunter

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday

March 6, 2016

On Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday, March 6, 2016, we honor women who contribute their gifts to the church and community, lifting up issues of women's rights and focusing on the role of women in our communities and world. Though Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday is March 6, 2016, your congregation or women's groups may use this resource on any date that you choose to celebrate the gifts of women.

In 2016, Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday honors and remembers women whose faith leads us like a torch. There are women leaders who are paving the way and passing the torch and their worship inheritance remains in the hearts and minds of worshipers in their congregations and worshipping communities. In Mark 14:3–9, we hear of a woman who *boldly inherits* the act of anointing, a sacred tradition reserved for men and religious authorities, and carries out this symbolic act of worship, risking condemnation from those who witnessed her action. But, Jesus vindicates her, praising her faithfulness, saying "wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her" (14:9). This story resonates with many women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), particularly those who practice and live out a bold paradigm of worship. This unnamed woman's act is a model we are fortunate to inherit.

The Celebrate the Gifts of Women resource, with a reflection by Sera Chung and liturgy by Rhashell Hunter, includes a worship service with

- a call to worship, call to confession, prayer of confession, an assurance of pardon, suggested hymns and scripture readings,
- an excerpt from *The Confession of Belhar* to read in unison and



Fragrant Oil, Janice VanCronkhite (www.jvcArtworks.com)

- a "Women in Leadership in the Church and the Community" program suggestion.

The Celebrate the Gifts of Women resource is available in the November/December 2015 issue of *Horizons* magazine, as a free download from www.pcusa.org/women and free from Presbyterian Distribution Service (PDS)—800/524-2612 or www.pcusa.org/store, item 27501-16-001. Order the November/December 2015 issue of *Horizons* from PDS, item HZN15250; \$4 plus shipping. A limited number of bulletin covers are available from PDS while supplies last; item 27501-16-002; \$5 for a pack of 25. The bulletin cover also may be downloaded free from www.pcusa.org/women.