

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Chapel

March 17, 1983

Given by a woman
Student

Call to Worship

"All Praise to Thee"
Hymn No. 43

Worship through Prayer

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 1:26-31

New Testament Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Worship through Music

Message

Nancy Unterzuber

Celebration of the New Humanity¹

Female Liturgist: We as women are strong.
We as women are powerful.
We as women can do things.

Women: Liberation is ours for the claiming.

Female Liturgist: We need to be more in touch with our strength,
our power, and our capabilities.
We need to be free to be ourselves.
We need not stifle our God-given talents.

Women: The gospel is liberation.

Female Liturgist: We don't have to stay in our place.

Women: The gospel frees us from the law.

Female Liturgist: Jesus broke law and tradition in his treatment
of women.

Women: Jesus was a feminist!

Male Liturgist: When you are free, then we are freer.
We don't have to prove our manliness.
We don't have to prove our "natural superiority."
We don't have to claim anything.

Men: Liberation is ours for the claiming.

Male Liturgist: We need to be more in touch with our tears.
We need to be free to be ourselves.
We need to discard our "masculine role" and discover who we
really are.

Men: The gospel is liberation.

Male Liturgist: We are free to share our responsibilities.

Men: The gospel frees us from the law.

Male Liturgist: Jesus challenged the status quo.

Men: Jesus calls us to full humanity.

All: We reject the notion that one sex should build bridges and the other keep the home.

We reject the idea of "proper roles," for roles belong to the realm of law, and freedom belongs to the gospel.

We believe the words of the New Testament that in God's time and place there is no male and female, no mankind or womankind, no manhood or womanhood, but simply humanhood, simply God's people.

We can and will be more human.

We will find ways of being men and women together.

Benediction

¹Adapted from a reading included in Sistercelebrations: Nine Worship Experiences (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1974), pp. 41-42.