

**70th Anniversary of Women’s Ordination
in the Methodist Tradition
Hymn Suggestions**

“O Spirit of the Living God” (UMH 539)

Perfect opening hymn — Spirit moving before we fully understand.

“Spirit of Faith, Come Down” (UMH 332)

Wesleyan theology + empowerment language that fits ordination.

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit” (UMH 404)

Joyful congregational response to Pentecost energy.

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God” (UMH 420)

Echoes ruach — wind/breath imagery in your sermon.

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness” (UMH 2120 / TFWS)

Names Spirit moving through history — aligns with 1956 recognition theme.

“Together We Serve” (TFWS 2175)

Highlights shared ministry — clergy and laity.

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” (UMH 519)

Liberation + endurance theme fits your sermon’s perseverance arc.

“A Charge to Keep I Have” (UMH 413)

Faithfulness in vocation — clergy resonance.

“We Shall Overcome” (UMH 533)

Appropriate if you want to lean into justice and persistence.

Hymns Written by Women

1. **“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”** – *written by Charlotte Elliott*
2. **“Just As I Am”** – *written by Charlotte Elliott*
3. **“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”** – *lyrics by Civilla D. Martin*
4. **“Open My Eyes, That I May See”** – *written by Clara H. Scott*
5. **“Take My Life and Let It Be”** (verse 3 sometimes attributed to) **Frances R. Havergal**
6. **“Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”** – *written by Frederick Whitfield* with strong historical use in women’s mission contexts (but often associated with women’s ministry)
7. **“Christ for the World We Sing”** – *lyrics by Margaret Clarkson*

Songs Celebrating Inclusiveness

For Everyone Born by Shirley Erena Murray. It is one of the strongest congregational hymns affirming equality in church leadership. Frequently used in UMC contexts.

Let It Be to Me According to Your Word by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Centers Mary's call and agency. Strong Advent or Annunciation hymn emphasizing women as bearers of God's mission.

O God of Women and Men by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Explicitly names women and men as equally called.

God of the Women by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. This is widely used globally and explicitly names biblical women.

For other relevant hymns by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, please visit her website at <https://www.carolynshymns.com/women.html>.

Canticle of the Turning by Rory Cooney. While written by a man, this Magnificat paraphrase powerfully proclaims the theology of Mary's prophetic leadership. It centers a young woman as God's revolutionary voice.

Draw the Circle Wide by Gordon Light. Not specifically about women, but used globally to affirm expansive leadership and inclusion.

Build Your Kingdom Here by Rend Collective. Used in Pentecostal services emphasizing Acts 2.

You Say by Lauren Daigle. While not explicitly about women's ministry, it centers identity rooted in God's call — frequently used in women clergy gatherings.