Women in Ministry for This Present Age—A Poem

We see too much…sickness, suffering, death.
We hear too much…gunfire, crying, moans.
We feel too much…anguish, anxiety, fatigue.
We know too much…sorrow, loneliness, uncertainty.

In a world that turns with troubles upon troubles,
Speak now, O God.
In a world that hungers and thirsts for righteous indignation and courageous action,
Speak now, O God.

In the midst of chaos, you call women forth.
In the midst of catastrophe, you call women to serve.
In the midst of shadows, you call women by name.
In the depth of the valley, you call women.

In this world that you created—you yet speak, O God.

We hear our names and we answer.
We hear our names and we respond.
We hear our names and we say, “Yes!”

In this world that you pronounced good—you call us, O God.

We give our lives to you.
Order our steps.
Shape us into the ministers you need.
Strengthen us with your power.
Shower us with your grace.
Hold us in your love.

Thank you for speaking to us…Thank you for calling us…Thank you for keeping us.

We are women in ministry…your warriors, your servants, your hands and feet.
We are women in ministry…we see, hear, feel, and know.
We are women in ministry…thank you, O God.

Submitted by:
The Rev. Barbara J. Essex
CEO, Barbara J. Essex Ministries, LLC
16781 Chagrin Blvd. # 430
Shaker Heights, OH 44120
216-772-2325
bj@barbarajessex.com
www.barbarajessex.com