FLORAL AFFILIATION SERVICE
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

By Carrie Baxter Jennings

Characters—

Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Associate Matron, Star Points, Conductresses and Candidates.

Scene—

Chapter Room with all officers in their stations except the Associate Matron, who at the sounding of the gavel for officers to rise has stepped down to position in line with Esther as shown in diagrams.

Properties—

Flowers of Purple and Lavender for Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron, Pink flowers for Associate Matron, Greens for Martha and flowers of Blue, Yellow, White and Red for other Star Points.

Movement

As the door of the preparation room opens to admit Conductresses with candidates the Worthy Matron by gavel summons chapter to rise.

Chapter joins in Song of Welcome to candidates. (Page 33, Star Gleams.)

Enter Conductresses with candidates and range in front of altar as per diagrams.

Chapter is seated, officers remain standing.

In presenting flowers to candidates the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron advance and retire in direct line with their stations.

The Star Points and Associate Matron follow the lines of march outlined in diagrams.

These will advance in couples, Adah and Electa together start when the Worthy Patron has passed their stations in retiring after presenting flowers, advance as per diagrams, give lines, present flowers, and retire all as per diagrams.
As soon as Adah (Diagram 1) and Electa (Diagram 2) have passed Ruth's and Martha's stations in retiring, Ruth and Martha start. (See Diagrams 3 and 4.)

When Ruth and Martha in retiring reach the turn in the west Esther and the Associate Matron start. The Associate Matron in retiring passes directly to her station. (See Diagrams 5 and 6.)

When Esther and Associate Matron leave the candidates the Worthy Matron steps down from her station, approaches in direct line and retires the same way.

Solo:—Love's Creed.

The chapter will now welcome the candidates in the usual way, after which they will be escorted to seats as fully affiliated members.

Conductresses approach The East, bow to signify that their work is finished, and receiving recognition from the Chair retire to their stations. Soft music should accompany all movements.

NOTE:

This Affiliation Service is to follow the regular initiation per ritual.

No flowers are presented during the regular service and the candidates are not greeted until the close of this service, the Worthy Patron varying his usual instruction thus: — "And you will give them a hearty welcome at the close of the affiliation service."
Worthy Patron:—

(Advancing in direct line from his station to candidates who are ranged with Conductresses in front of altar.)

"On yonder chart mine eyes behold
The symbols of a mighty clan;
Symbols which speak of mystic rites,
Of fealty 'twixt man and man.
My office forms the symbolled tie
Between that order, mystic, old,
And this beloved fraternity,
The link which I in trust must hold.
I pay my tribute at the shrine
Of Adah, Martha, Esther, Ruth,
Electa who with courage fine
Became a martyr for the Truth."

Adah:—

"I bring you violets fragrant and beautiful,
Blue as the vault of the unclouded sky;
They speak of a life that was filially dutiful,
A daughter who feared not for honor to die.
Facing the light, with Fidelity true,
Fair Adah shines forth in the ray of pure blue.
And this (sign) and this (sign) and this (sign) shall be
A sacred pledge 'twixt thee and me."

Electa:—

"The petals of the red, red rose
Truth, Charity and Love reveal.
And in the warm red color glows
Courage and strength and earnest zeal.
Martyred Electa speaks alway
To us in language of the Mother,
For through the fervent, warm red ray
She fondly says: "Love one another."
And this (sign) and this (sign) and this (sign) shall be
A sacred pledge 'twixt thee and me."

Ruth:—

"Blossoms of yellow I bring to you,
Significant emblems they are
Of the life of that sister so Constant and true,
Widowed Ruth, second point of our Star.
May her lesson of thrift, the protection of age,
Of humility lived day by day
As written for us on history's page
Be your guide through the soft yellow ray.
And this (sign) and this (sign) and this (sign) shall be
A sacred pledge 'twixt thee and me."
Martha:—

"I bring you fronds of living green,
    Fair emblem of a faith sublime
That bridged the depths that intervene
    Between eternity and time.
Her Master said, 'Believest this?
    I am the life, the truth, the way.'
And Martha's Faith spanned the abyss
    And turned her darkness into day.
These symbols of eternal spring
    Of Martha's Faith fair emblems are,
And to our consciousness they bring
    The point of Green in our bright Star.
And this (sign) and this (sign) and this (sign) shall be
A sacred pledge 'twixt thee and me."

Esther:—

"I come with blossoms snowy white,
    Fit emblem of a spotless life,
Of courage fearless and upright,
    Esther, the gracious royal Wife.
When treachery her race betrayed,
    And sought to cut her people down
This slender, shrinking Jewish maid
    Unbidden faced her monarch's frown,
Reminding him of promise made
    She lightly touched her queenly vesture,
His pardon granted, purpose stayed,
    He spake: 'What wilt thou, proud Queen Esther?'
Joy, justice, Purity and Light
Shine through the ray of spotless white.
And this (sign) and this (sign) and this (sign) shall be
A sacred pledge 'twixt thee and me."

Associate Matron:—

"I too would loving tribute pay
To those of old who paved the way
By service, sacrifice and zeal,
Forgetting self for others' weal.
By tortuous lanes the paths they trod
Through tribulation led to God.
They bought their peace at heavy cost—
God grant their lessons be not lost.
And may our lives proclaim afar
The gospel of The Eastern Star."

Worthy Matron:—

"Welcome, dear friends, with joy we greet
    Your union with our mystic band;
Welcome to join our concourse sweet,
    To feel the clasp of friendly hand.
The lessons of Fidelity,
Of Constancy and Love sublime,
Of Courage grand, and Loyalty,
   A Faith which rends the veil of time;
All these, my friends, inspiring, great,
   The heroines of our order tell;
Strive thou their lives to emulate
   And in these virtues to excel."

Conclude with singing of LOVE'S CREED.