

O. E. S. GRAND
CHAPTER LIBRARYTHE TEMPLE OF FRIENDSHIP
By Lola Lamoreux

The Worthy Matron requests all guests of the Chapter to rise, she then says, Sisters and brothers, in behalf of my Chapter and in the name of Friendship I bid you welcome. On this, Our Friendship night we are indeed happy to greet you in our Chapter room for we know you came because you are our friends. One of the greatest blessings we have on God's earth is the privilege of friendship. To call one a friend and to know that he is a true friend is one of life's greatest joys. To me, a Friendship Night is one of the most beautiful institutions of our Order and we are happy to have you share it with us.

There's a deep sort of joy that we all understand,
In the ring of the voice and the clasp of the hand.
In the warmth of a smile that is friendly and true
This greeting, my friends is extended to you.

The guests are seated and the Chapter Room is darkened as for the initiation service. The Worthy Matron then says:

Sister Marshall, in honor of our guests you will proclaim this Chapter a Temple of Friendship.

Marshall (raising baton)

By order of the Worthy Matron, I now proclaim this Chapter room a Temple of Friendship.

The following song is sung as a solo or duet. Tune - "The Old Rugged Cross".

O the Temple of Friendship stands high on a hill,
An emblem of gladness and love.
As we enter the doors we find peace and good will
And our Father smiles down from above.
So we'll seek far and wide for the keys,
To the door of that friendship divine
For we cherish the temple so dear
And would worship each day at it's shrine.

Worthy Matron: Sisters and brothers, in this Temple of Friendship are many doors which may be opened easily by those who hold the proper keys. It is our wish that each of you receive a key which will enable you to enter all the doors of this Temple whenever it shall be your desire. We hope that you may find herein true friendship, the peace of mind and the joy of living which is dear to the hearts of us all.

Sister Marshall, you shall be designated as the Keeper of the Temple. You are familiar with its architecture and the Guardians of the Doors are your friends. Each Guardian holds the keys to the door she guards and at your request will gladly explain the lock and give to you the keys which are used in the opening of the doors. Tarry not but return to me when your task has been performed.

(The keys which have been given to the Marshall should be made of heavy cardboard and painted either silver or gold. On these may be written, "Friendship of..... Chapter". The key ring should also be of heavy cardboard. There should be enough keys so that each guest may receive one.)

The Keeper of the Temple takes a large key ring on which to slip the keys and leaving her station marches once around the room not too rapidly, stopping at the station of the Conductress, as she approaches her station in the second round. As she marches, the following is read aloud slowly and clearly by the Worthy Patron. Soft music may be played if it does not interfere with the Patron's rendition.

The Temple of Friendship

Let me live in a house by the side of a road,
Where the race of men go by,
The men who are good, the men who are bad,
As good and bad as I.
I would not sit in the scorner's seat
Nor hurl the ~~elusive~~ ban (cynics) ^{the}
Let me live in a house by the side of road
And be a friend to man.

Keeper of Temple addresses Guardian of the door at Conductresses' station: Guardian of the Door, our leader of the Temple has sent me to procure from you the keys that open this sacred room of the Temple. Will you advise me about the lock and tell me the most acceptable way to enter?

Guardian of the Door:

The name of the lock to this Temple Door is Loyalty. To unlock the door of any friendship we must ever be staunch and loyal. I gladly present you with my key, for all who would have friends and be friendly are welcome to enter. (Gives keys to Keeper of the Temple and says)

We would not be friends when skies are blue,
And turn away
To place devotion on an altar new
When skies are gray.
Quite humbly let us walk beside the friend
Who's needing us
Content that we our sympathy might lend
That's loyalty.
To walk with friends on trails when roses end.

As the keeper of the Temple leaves the station and goes to the station in the West the following song is sung. Tune - "Old Rugged Cross"

To be loyal to friends when skies are all gray,
And not only when they are blue,
Is the test of the one who would enter the door
For friendship must ever be true.

Keeper of the Temple then speaks to the Guardian of the Door at the Associate Matron's station:

Guardian of the Door, our Leader of the Temple has sent me to procure from you the keys that open this sacred room of the Temple. Will you advise me about the lock and tell me the most acceptable way to enter?

Guardian of the Door:

The name of the lock to this door is Steadfastness. To unlock the door of friendship we must ever be steadfast and true. The same, yesterday today and tomorrow. I gladly give you the key, for any who would be a steadfast friend and who desires true friends are welcome to enter.

(Gives keys to Keeper of Temple and says)

Of all the blessings heaven doth send,
Of all the gifts that life doth lend,
Of all rewards the utmost end
Of joy-the essence and the blend
Here's to one who'll not pretend
But always be a steadfast friend.

As the Keeper of the Temple leaves the station and goes to the station of the Chaplain the following song is sung. Tune - "Old Rugged Cross"

O a blessing from heaven is a good steadfast friend,
Who stands by our side thru the years,
And we love the dear friend with a love great and strong
Who shares all our joys and our tears.

Chorus-

The Temple of Friendship

So we'll seek far and wide for the keys,
To the doors of that friendship divine
For we cherish the Temple so dear
And would worship each day at its shrine.

Keeper of the Temple speaking to Chaplain says:

Sister Chaplain our leader of the Temple has sent me to procure from you the keys that open the doors to this sacred room of the Temple. Will you advise me about the lock and tell me the most acceptable way to enter?

Chaplain:

Keeper of the Temple, thru this door which I guard we may find the greatest friend of all-Jesus. Come with me to this holy room so I may tell you more about the wonders of this great friendship.

Chaplain and Keeper of the Temple go slowly to the Altar in the same manner as it is approached for Chapter prayer. As they go a verse of "What a Friend we have in Jesus" is sung. When Chaplain and Keeper of the Temple have reached a position before the Altar the Chaplain pointing to the Holy Bible says: My sister and friend, this Holy Book tells us much of true friendship and how to attain it. Listen, "Greater love hath no man, than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you".

"Henceforth I call you not servants, but I have called you friends."

"A friend loveth at all times".

"A man that hath friends, must show himself friendly".

"There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

So you see, my friend, that the lock to this door is easily found and all who wish to enter-nay, they are urged to enter into this beautiful friendship, with the greatest Teacher and trusted Friend of all-Jesus.

Take these keys which are kept upon the Altar of the Temple. (Gives keys to Keeper of the Temple) and let us return to the outer door that we may be ready to serve any who come.

Together they slowly return to Chaplain's station while, "I've Found a Friend, Oh Such a Friend" is sung.

Keeper of the Temple leaves Chaplain with a bow and proceeds to the Worthy Matron's station and addressing her says:

Worthy Matron, I have gathered the keys of the doors of the Temple of Friendship, what disposition shall I make of them?

Worthy Matron:

Keeper of the Temple, we do not wish to ^{retain} retain these keys for ourselves. They are for our guests that they may ever find access to the Temple of Friendship and having come here may freely wander in its rooms at will. Take the keys and in retracing your steps leave a key with each of our friends that they may share our joys with us.

Guests to stand.

As Marshall distributes the keys to honor guests soft music is played or a friendship song may be sung. When she has reached her station the Matron says:

Let us be friendly

Life is sweet just because of the friends we've made,

And the things in common we share.

We want to live on not because of ourselves

But because of the people who care.

Its giving and doing for somebody else,

On this-life's splendor depends,

And the joy of this life when we sum it all up

Is found in the making of friends.