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THE OPEN GATE
An Installation Service

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By Pearle Seitter, Past Matron,
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East should be decorated with flowers or potted plants. A little fence with gate stands in front of dais.

As soon as incoming Matron is invested with the badge of her office, an Angel, carrying an empty basket, descends the dais, opens the gate, passes through, and stops a short distance inside. Angel may carry arm bouquet to which she adds other flowers if desired. Twelve Past Matrons, other members, or incoming officers, march to the front, six on each side, and form semicircle between the gate and the Altar, with the Angel within the circle. This march may be as elaborate as desired. (Retiring Matron may take the part of Angel)

The twelve in march represent the twelve months of the year. Each carries a flower with foliage. These flowers should be all alike, or of a kind that will make a beautiful basket of flowers at the close. After speaking, each one hands the flower to the Angel, who puts it in the bouquet or basket. All address incoming Matron when speaking.

Angel: *Retiring W. M.*

The year is closed, the race is run,
Just memory of it now remains,
To tell of all the work we've done,
To tell of all our joys and pains.
And time moves on. It will not stay
But reaches for another day.

The year is done, our work is o'er,
And time is moving at it's best,
We would not stop it if we could,
We would not let it wait or rest.
And now our purpose full and clear,
Is just to greet another year.

January:

I represent the month that comes
The very first of all the year,
And as it comes, with it we bring
A welcome to our Matron here.
And with my flower, I give to you,
This promise to be always true.

February:

February, we know, has fewer days
In which to show our service here,
But if we're faithful for the time,
There will be nothing we should fear;
My little flower to you will say
That I shall faithful be each day.

March:

And March comes in with sleet and show
All in a mixture, wind and rain,
But I hope my service will be
Without much change, no loss but gain;
And so my flower is to say,
I hope there'll be no stormy day.

April:

April brings the sun and showers,
The spring days we all love to see;
They make us know the time is here
When we must show our loyalty;
My little flower, it is clear,
Now comes to you to bring your cheer.

May:

May comes in with warmer days,
And flowers too, along the way,
They tell of beauty and of love,
And through them we a message say;
To you, dear Matron, we'll be true,
And with this flower, give love to you.

June:

Now comes the balmy days of June,
The month of roses, beauty rare;
We hope this month will be to you
One free from worry, grief, and care;
May it bring comfort every hour,
This is the message of my flower.

July:

Vacation days come in July,
And as we rest from work and care,
Although we're not together here,
We must our joys and sorrows share;
And so my flower says to you,
That we will help the whole year through.

August:

August brings more summer days,
Another month of rest for you,
But you'll be looking on to see
The task ahead for you to do;
For you my little flower prays
For strength and help in summer days.

September:

Vacations ends, September comes,
All glad for meeting time once more,
So happy to be with our friends,
And serve our Chapter as before;
You'll think of many things to do,
I give my flower to help you through.

October:

October is the autumn month,
When nature's tints are all aglow;
Our colors blend with all of these,
They are for all the year, you know;
And now my flower says to you
Through all the year, you'll find us true.

November:

November is the "Thank you" month,
We'll thank you for your service here,
And everything that you have done,
Within our hearts we shall hold dear;
We are so sure you'll be true blue,
This flower brings our thanks to you.

December:

December is the month to plan
To close the year the very best,
And I am sure when all is done
You'll feel that you deserve a rest;
And now my flower, which is last,
Brings blessings to a Matron Past.

If desired, the Angel can wait until all have finished speaking, then pass around the semicircle for the flowers. After putting them in the basket, she presents it to the incoming Matron.

Angel:

Dear Matron, I these flowers bring,
They speak of love your heart to cheer;
With them your Chapter gives to you
It's loyalty for all the year;
These flowers say, "We will be true,
And pray God's blessing upon you".

After presenting flowers, Angel bows, and walking in front of Matron and Marshal, escorts them to the East.

When incoming Patron is invested with badge of office, the Angel goes to Altar and escorts him to East in like manner.

Those representing months return to seats as soon as Matron is escorted to the East.

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