

Jacqueline Brett  
Charge to Meadville Graduates – May 21, 2017  
**Let Us Go Forth**

My Dear Ones,

Dear colleagues and friends, here we are, in this moment of our collective achievement and great gladness. In this moment when we can finally say, *It is done! It is finished!*

And while this is true..., today we are also crossing the threshold of our new beginning. A new beginning that calls us forth to enter our voices, our Selves, our Being into this time of great global and national crisis. This time of great denominational crisis. This time when we must see to the needs of our planet, or risk not being able to see or be with anything at all.

But, no matter where this beginning shall take us, no matter what we find our individual call to be, I also know this to be true: *We have been formed for a time such as this.* This time of our great awakening, this time of our collective transformation. This time when the world is crying out to reshape itself into something new.

So, let us go forth, turned towards the best parts of ourselves, the better angels of our nature with an *Ethic of Risk*, hope, faith, and determination that we each will do our part in creating the beautiful world our hearts know is possible.

Let us go forth in the knowledge that we contain within our Selves that most potent and powerful Source: the light of the divine which resides in our hearts. So let us keep our hearts open with a courage that allows them to be broken again and again -- as they most surely will be.

And though at times we might quake with despair or fear, let us go forth in the blessed assuredness that God, she is waiting for the bold commitment of our hearts. God, he is willing to join with the creative work of our hands. And that all the energies and forces in the universe ultimately bend towards good.

Let us go forth in humility and with prayers that our foolishness, when it comes, our ignorance, when it be made known to each of us and the world again and again, that we will not turn back shame-faced and guilt-ridden, but will be eager to learn, so that we might grow. So that we are better able to dismantle structures and systems of injustice however and wherever we encounter them. Better able to serve all beings.

Let us go forth determined to remain in touch with the beauty and light of the divine. Determined to move in our world with compassion and wisdom and love. Determined to remain in touch with one another so that we might hold each other in our hearts during the time of our personal need – for that day, too, will surely come.

My dear Meadville Class of 2017, let us go forth, determined to build this world on lovingkindness rather than fear, justice rather than oppression, humility rather than condescension, equity rather than privilege.

Let us go forth fueled with the confidence that, *We have been formed for this!*

May our hope never fade. May our love never cease.

May this ever be so.

Let us go forth!