

THE BUILDERS
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To welcome long-time members.

Members are presented for introduction, and welcome speech is given by Worthy Matron as follows:

We are very happy tonight to bring special greetings to you, our sisters and brothers who have been members of our Order for many years. You little realize just how much you have accomplished during the years since you became members. You may not have had an opportunity to become a presiding officer, or you may not have held any office, but your cooperation and support through the years has meant much in the building of our great Order. We are all builders of a destiny. The Order of the Eastern Star is a great structure. Someone with great mind and keen thinking laid the corner stone for this great organization; others by their help, laid the foundation, and step by step, brick by brick, and stone by stone, we have been building upward, and you have each had a part in this building. By your attendance, your cooperation, and your support, you have done your part in the construction of this great structure.

We know that no workman has ever built such a great structure alone,
For someone has dug out the trenches, and someone has carried the stone;
Someone has mixed up the plaster, someone has made frames for the walls;
Someone has made the glass in the windows, to light the rooms and halls;
Someone has made all the hinges, and someone has helped build the flue,
Someone has cut down the timber, the lumber to form and to hue;
We find there are so many duties that fall to the lot of a man,
But we each have a part in the building, we have a part in the plan.

After welcome speech, the Marshal conducts guests by way of the East to position west of Altar where chairs may be provided if desired.

When all are in position, Worthy Matron speaks:

Your hands have been a great help in forming the organization which we call our Order. We are grateful to you for your efforts and your love in helping to build this great structure. The Obligation of our Order may well be called the foundation upon which we build. That this may be firmly impressed upon our minds, we will ask our Worthy Patron to lead us in repeating this Obligation.

Chapter is called up, and all repeat the Obligation. (If this ceremony is given when non-members are present, omit the Obligation.)

Worthy Matron:

The lessons of our Eastern Star cannot be called to our attention too often. They are the blocks by which we build our structure. They may well be called the frame of our building. The teachings of our Star points are the rooms, and these rooms are of choicest beauty. As the sunlight shines through these rooms, they seem to reflect the colors of blue, yellow, white, green, and red, until they form a transparent prism. The strength of these rooms radiate from the center of our building where we find the Word of Truth. Let us pause within this structure, and hear the welcome which comes from these rooms of fidelity, constancy, loyalty, faith and love.

Each of the Star points when speaking, rises, and turns to face guests.

Adah: Upon the foundation so carefully laid,
The house of our Order is so firmly made;
We know you have always been loyal and true,
So we bring to you first the room which is blue;
The walls are all lined with fidelity fair,
And in building this you have each had a share;
Just in case you might not have noticed before,
The violets are growing just outside our door;
And since you through the years have all been so true,
We dedicate this room of fidelity to you.

Ruth: The room which you find here is lovely we're told,
For the sun's rays have made it so yellow with gold;
You helped build this room as you passed on your way,
Just giving a part of your service each day;
You helped build this room and we know it is true,
That it's beauty alone will bring credit to you;
The jessamine is growing just outside the door,
And just keeps on blooming as in days of yore,
And to pay for your service all the years through,
We are dedicating this room so lovely to you.

Esther: (Esther takes position in front of guests when speaking.)

You will find my room is so cheerful and light,
For it always reflects the purity of white;
The walls of this room you'll find so lovely too,
For they show your work has been loyal and true;
You helped build this room by your kindness to friends,
We hope you'll enjoy it 'till life for you ends;
The lilies will bloom in this room every day,
For as friends you've been with us each step of the way;
And since as friends you've been loyal and true,
We are pleased to dedicate this room to you.

Martha: The green room of faith is the one we must know,
If we have any hope while in this life below,
For of this lovely room we each have a share,
In the faith of a life without sorrow or care;
And all who pass through this room will soon see,
That they must believe in the life that's to be;
The green leaves on bushes and trees will be found,
And the lace of the ferns as they cover the ground;
And since you have had this faith all life through,
We now dedicate the green room to you.

Electa: You will find my room is surrounded with love,
And receives all the blessings that come from above;
The walls of this room are a beautiful red,
And reflect the bright hues that it's rays softly shed;
And outside the door in the garden there grows,
So many bright tints of our favorite red rose;
And you'll always find hospitality here,
And charity too, for we hold them both dear,
And since through the years to these things you've been true,
We dedicate with love the red room to you.

After Star points give their verses, soloist sings the following song. Gifts may be presented to the guests during song if desired, or following song.

Tune: "How Firm A Foundation."

How firm a foundation,
As members you've laid,
To build for our Star,
The best structure that's made;
What more can we say
Than we have said to you,
That you through the years,
Have been loyal and true;
That you through the years
Have been loyal and true.

We bring you our gifts
And we bring you our praise,
For all you have done
Through the passing of days;
The house you are building
Is so strong and true,
We thank you for this
As we now welcome you,
We thank you for this
As we now welcome you.

At close of song, members are escorted to their seats.

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