



# ORDINATION BLESSING FOR IMPOSSIBLE TIMES

**Bless you on this day. We acknowledge your gifts, calling, preparation,  
and your readiness for the practice of ministry.**

**Give thanks for both obvious and hidden support from family and friends, beloved  
ones and ancestors, frenemies and peers, professors and mentors.**

**Lean wholeheartedly into inter-generational transformation  
and healing for yourself and the world.**

**Remember ministry is not merely a profession. Yet being professional can be a  
useful path. Ministry is not mainly a job, yet all people who share the work  
deserve dignity, respect, and fair compensation.**

**At its heart ministry is a spiritual practice, cultivated across time and with  
experience, missteps, and course corrections. Pay attention to your body,  
your relationships, your habits, and your energy.**

**The world you serve is impossible, broken, harmful, and full of suffering. The  
world is also beautiful, magnificent, buzzing with life, and full of joy.**

**Your calling is to hold all these pieces, to bear witness,  
to do no harm, and when possible to extend love.**

**When you accept the mantle of ordination, you become a steward of mysteries  
and a sentinel of power. Hold each lightly and with love, humility, and kindness.  
And if your social location leads people to disrespect, underpay, or seek to harm  
you, then speak truth to power. And join hands with people  
who will have your back and you, theirs.**

**May your teaching and preaching, praying and justice-making, worshiping and  
administrating be inspired by the sacred. May you speak courageously  
and act with holy fierceness. Ask honest questions, listen deeply,  
and continue learning. In all things cultivate your gifts, be ready  
to improvise, and nourish your pastoral imagination.**

**May you become the loving and wise leader the world needs.**

