

*The following Bible and Emblem Ceremony is being shared courtesy of the
Grand Chapter of Quebec*

BIBLE AND EMBLEM CEREMONY

Quebec Grand Chapter, October 2004

Dedicated to
Sister Ruth Dickenson-Hill, W.G.M and Brother Angus Strong, W.G.P.

The Grand Organist plays softly throughout the ceremony.

Order: *The Worthy Grand Matron stands under the arbour followed by the Associate Grand Conductress, Bible Bearer, and Grand Conductress. The Emblem Bearers, Adah in lead, follow.*

The Associate Grand Conductress assists the Grand Conductress at the Altar.

The Worthy Grand Patron carries the Bible.

The Grand Conductress carries the draped altar cloth.

The Emblem Bearers:

Sword and Veil: Sister (name)

Sheaf: Sister (name)

Crown and Sceptre: Sister (name)

Broken Column: Sister (name)

Cup: Sister (name)

CEREMONY

MUSIC

The Worthy Grand Matron enters through the arbour and advances to a position in the East, just outside the marching line, facing West. She remains standing throughout the ceremony.

*The Associate Grand Conductress, Bible bearer and Grand Conductress enter through the arbour, in that order. The Grand Conductress, carrying the cloth on her forearms, raises outstretched arms to shoulder level as she leaves the arbour. They advance to the South marching line, observing square corners, turn North to stand on the Marching Line behind Esther's chair – **remain in that position for 5 seconds.***

Narration starts. *(The Bible bearer remains. Simultaneously, the **Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress**, respectively, enter the labyrinth between the stations of Ruth and Esther and Esther and Martha. They turn South and North from their positions behind Esther's chair to the South and North marching lines, then walk obliquely to the South and North sides of the Altar. The Grand Conductress places the cloth on the Altar and the Associate Grand Conductress assists in opening the cloth. They remain standing at the Altar, on the South and North sides.)*

(If the Altar Cloth has a special history or special meaning, it should be so recognized here, as it was in Quebec by these words)
The beauty of this Altar Cloth, is not merely what the eyes can see;
Its real beauty lies in its making, as well as in its history.
A daughter's donation in loving memory of her mother so dear.
It was dedicated by Joyce Martin, Worthy Grand Matron that year.
Twas crafted by Past Grand Bobby, a true expert, it's clear.
Barbara MacDougall, is the fair daughter's name.
The mother? Evelyn Hobson, a member of fame.

As narrator mentions the Bible, *the **Bible Bearer** turns right and walks South to the marching line, then pivots and approaches the Altar. He slowly deposits the Bible on the Altar and remains standing quietly for a few moments. They remain at the altar until the reading stops. The Associate Grand Conductress and Grand Conductress, leave the altar to return to a position in front of the Associate Matron's station, and stand on the West marching line, facing east. The Bible bearer leaves to stand at the left of the Worthy Grand Matron.*

(If the Bible has a special history or special meaning, it should be so recognized here, as it was in Quebec by these words)
Margaret and Samuel Lindsay originally presented this Bible to Queen Alexandra Chapter No. 24. It was dedicated on September 17, 1956, by the late Past Grand Matron, Sister Frances Kemp, assisted by Sister Katherine Jones, Grand Conductress at the time.
The chapter closed in 1965 and the Bible was given in safekeeping to Amity Chapter No. 43. It is now in the most precious care of Sister Ruth, Worthy Grand Matron, a member of Amity Chapter.

Its light is like the body of heaven in its clearness;
Its vastness like the bosom of the sea;
Its variety like scenes of nature.

Narrator nods to the emblem bearers. (*The Emblem Bearers enter, circle the room once, then stand behind the appropriate pedestals, facing East. The emblem is placed on the pedestal at the first mention of that starpoint's colour. Then, the emblem bearer picks up the flower placed on the chair and stands beside the chair, facing east. When the last emblem is placed on the pedestal, the emblem bearers circle the labyrinth, starting with Adah. As they pass by the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron, they give the flowers to the Worthy Grand Matron, and leave through the arbour.*)

Blue may reflect sorrow and sadness, and sometimes a tear.
Adah, the daughter, reveals the soul of truth without fear;
Through her lessons of meekness, fidelity, and humility.
And clear blue skies open for us and azure seas flow gently.

Yellow fields of ripening wheat, abundance;
A radiant sun, new friendships begun,
Belief in ideals and personal worth;
Good deeds done for the sake of another:
Ruth's life? There is much to be learned through her example.

White billowing clouds, white drifting snow;
A pure white lily, a sunlit beach of clean white sand;
All symbols of purity, and a pure and upright life.
Esther, used her strength and power in seeking justice for all.

Green, the colour of springtime, renewed life and growth,
Is a symbol of the endlessness of life renewed.
Martha's devotion to her family and her unending faith
Teach us be strong and true to our beliefs.

Red, the fire that burns inside us as our faith is questioned;
Red, the colour of fervency, hospitality and love;
The red rose: Electa's love of her fellow man.
The cup filled to the brim with joys and sorrows.

The Grand Conductress and Associate Grand Conductress then leave their positions, to escort the Worthy Grand Matron out of the hall through the arbour. The Bible Bearer joins the Worthy Grand Matron, and they leave the hall through the arbour.