Esther as Woman

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Some Biblical Women

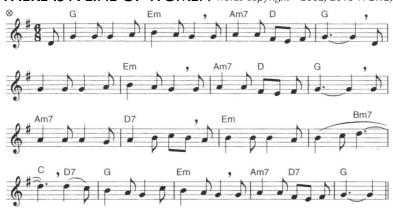
Leah Tamar 1 Zelophehad Rizpah Achsah Dinah Jael Tamar 2 Shiphrah Puah Michal Merab Jochebed **Abigail** Wife of Manoah Jephthah's girl Zipporah Daughters of Deborah Huldah

The Levite's concubine

Some Biblical Men

Abraham Laban Jacob Joshua Samson **Jephthah** Isaac Boaz Abimelech Samuel Moses David Saul Aaron Absalom Lot Gideon Joseph Ehud **Jeroboam**

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- There is a line of women, extending back to Eve, whose role in shaping history God only could conceive. and though, through endless ages, their witness was repressed, God valued and encouraged them through whom the world was blessed.
- There is a line of women
 who took on powerful men,
 defying laws and scruples
 to let life live again.
 And though, despite their triumph,
 their stories stayed untold
 God kept their number growing,
 creative, strong and bold.

SO SING A SONG OF SARAH
TO LAUGHTER SHE GAVE BIRTH;
AND SING A SONG OF TAMAR
WHO STOOD FOR WOMEN'S WORTH;
AND SING A SONG OF HANNAH
WHO BARGAINED WITH HER LORD;
AND SING A SONG OF MARY
WHO BORE AND BRED GOD'S WORD.

SO SING A SONG OF SHIPHRAH WITH PUAH AT HER HAND, ENGAGED TO KILL MALE CHILDREN THEY FOILED THE KING'S COMMAND. AND SING A SONG OF RAHAB WHO SHELTERED SPIES AND LIED; AND SING A SONG OF ESTHER, PREVENTING GENOCIDE.

There is a line of women
who stood by Jesus' side,
who housed him while he ministered
and held him when he died.
And though they claimed he'd risen
their news was deemed suspect
till Jesus stood among them,
his womanly elect.

SO SING A SONG OF ANNA WHO SAW CHRIST'S INFANT FACE; AND SING A SONG OF MARTHA WHO GAVE HIM FOOD AND SPACE; AND SING OF ALL THE MARYS WHO HEEDED HIS REQUESTS, AND NOW AT HEAVEN'S BANQUET ARE JESUS' FONDEST GUESTS.

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- 1. From a high, secret shelf, I take what I hid myself Perfume, precious and rare, never meant to spill or spare. This I'll carefully break, this I'll empty for his sake: I will give what I have to my Lord.
- 2. Though the action is crude, it will show my gratitude for the truth that I've learnt from the one who's heaven-sent; for this life once a mess which his beauty can express, I will give what I have to my Lord.
- 3. With his critics around, common gossip will abound. They'll note all that they see to discredit him and me. Let them smirk, let them jeer, say what people want to hear; I will give what I have to my Lord.
- 4. It's because he'll receive, that the likes of me believe God has time for the poor. He has shown us heaven's door. Be it perfume and care, be it anger or despair, I will give what I have to my Lord.

MOTHERING GOD

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- 1. Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world. Creator, Source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun; you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
- Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me our food of light, grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace; your very body for my peace.
- 3. Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close, so that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know; until I flower, until I know.

STAND FIRM

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