

Esther as Woman

ALLELUIA *Norah Duncan IV, copyright © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, USA*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Some Biblical Women

Leah	Tamar 1	Zelophehad	Rizpah
Dinah	Achsah	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	Jacob	Laban	Joshua
Samson	Jephthah	Isaac	Boaz
Moses	Abimelech	David	Samuel
Lot	Saul	Aaron	Absalom
Gideon	Joseph	Ehud	Jeroboam

THERE IS A LINE OF WOMEN *words copyright © 2002, 2018 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland*

1. 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.

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.

2. 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 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 HEADED HIS REQUESTS, AND NOW AT HEAVEN'S BANQUET ARE JESUS' FONDEST GUESTS.

I WILL GIVE WHAT I HAVE *copyright © 1988, 2005 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland*

From a high, sec - ret shelf, I take what I hid my - self - per - fume,
pre - cious and rare, nev - er meant to spill or spare. This I'll
care - ful - ly break, this I'll emp - ty for his sake: I will
give what I have to my Lord.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

*words copyright © 1991 Jean Janzen, 5508 E. Lane, Fresno, California
music copyright © WGRG, c/o Iona Community*

- 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.
- 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

arr. copyright © 1988, 2005 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland

(All:) STAND, O STAND FIRM; STAND, O

STAND FIRM; STAND, O STAND FIRM AND SEE WHAT THE LORD CAN

(Cantor:) O my sis-ters, stand ve-ry firm!
DO. _____