

# FOR A TIME SUCH AS THIS

## Women heroes of the Old Testament

*Given to the Glory of God in thanksgiving for  
and in memory of  
Judy Newman and all Altar Guild Members*

**Sarah** is the matriarch of Israel. She gave birth to Isaac when she was well-beyond typical childbearing years, reminding us that, with God, we never run out of time. (Genesis 18:1-15)

**Hagar** is an enslaved woman who was used as a surrogate during Sarah's barrenness. God saved her, and her Ishmael, in the desert from thirst. Hagar has often been seen as a figure that African women identify with. (Genesis 16:1-16; 21:8-21)

**Miriam** is a prophet and the sister of Moses and Aaron. After God's saving deeds at the Red Sea, she leads the newly liberated people in praising God in song. (Exodus 15:20-21)

**Judith** is the namesake and central character in the Book of Judith (found in the Apocrypha). Her cunning, bravery, and might led to the salvation of the people of Israel from the Assyrians (Judith 13:1-20).

**Ruth** becomes the ancestor of Jesus by her faithfulness to God, despite the fact that she is an outsider to Judaism. (Ruth 1:6-22)

**Esther's** courage and actions saved the Jewish people from persecution while they were living in exile. She was a faithful steward of the opportunity given to her by God. (Esther 4:4-17)



# I HAVE SEEN THE LORD

## New Testament stories of salvation

*Given to the Glory of God and in honor and thanksgiving for the lives of Sidney R. Boland, Katherine Lingerfelt Boland, & Barbara Ann Crutchfield Johnson  
by Sidney Reginald Boland, III, Deborah Ann Shoemaker Livingston, &  
Katrina Lynn Turner Bailey*

**The Annunciation to Mary** – The Angel Gabriel comes to Mary to announce to her that she will bear the Son of God. She responds with the greatest show of faith in human history: “let it be with me according to your word.” (Luke 1:26-38)

**Jesus Meets the Woman at the Well** – A woman who is generally seen as an outcast Samaritan has the longest conversation with Jesus recorded in Scripture. She then invites others to “come and see” this salvation that she has encountered. (John 4:1-42)

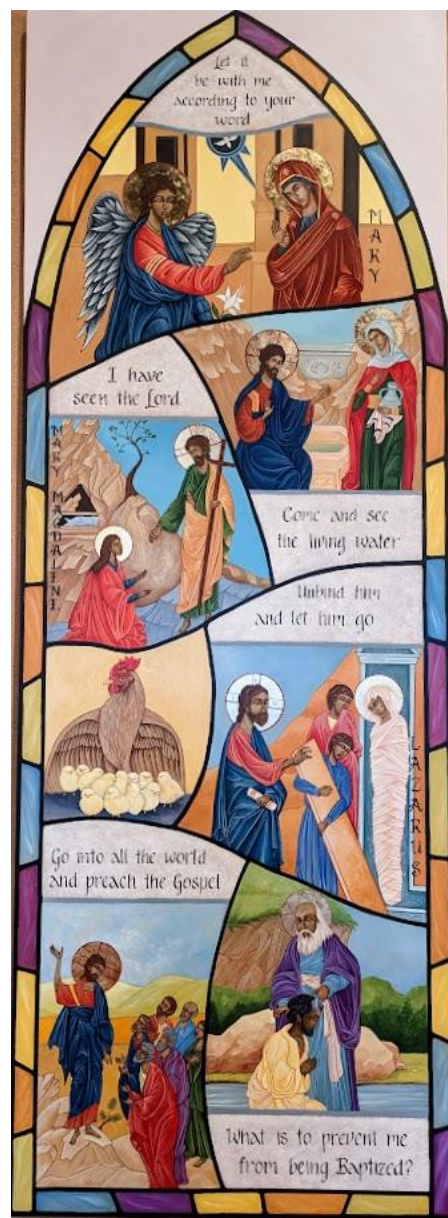
**Mary Magdalene Encounters the Risen Lord** – The first witness to the Resurrection and the first bearer of this Good News is Mary Magdalene, who dutifully came to the tomb on Easter morning (John 20:1-18).

**The Raising of Lazarus** – We do not know much about Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha of Bethany. Some speculate that his lack of a speaking line suggests an intellectual disability. He was also a dear friend of Jesus. Jesus comes and raises him from death just as he does for us all (John 11:1-53).

**Jesus, the Mother Hen** – Masculine images for God are commonly used, but Scripture is also full of feminine ways of understanding God. Jesus speaks of himself as a mother hen who seeks to gather the flock under her protective wings. (Luke 13:34)

**The Great Commission** – After his Resurrection, Jesus assures us that he is always with us and sends us out into the diversity of the whole creation to proclaim the Gospel and bring all to know the message of God’s love. (Matthew 28:16-20)

**Philip Baptizes an Ethiopian Eunuch** – Philip finds himself sent south where he encounters someone that Scripture had previously made clear should not be allowed to be a part of the assembly of God: a eunuch. However, led by the Spirit, Philip Baptizes him and brings this outsider into the household of God. (Acts 8:26-40)



# GOD'S TIME IS ALWAYS NEAR

Disciples of Christ throughout the ages

*Given to the Glory of God by and in thanksgiving for  
the witness and mission of the St. Luke's Foundation*

**Phoebe** was the courier who delivered the letter sent by Paul to Rome. The courier was entrusted not only with carrying a message, but also announcing and explaining it. Her example shows that female leadership and apostleship was present in the earliest days of the Church. (Romans 16:1-2)

Tertullian, a 2<sup>nd</sup>-century theologian said “the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.” We can then say that **Alban** is the seed of faith in the British Isles, as he is the earliest known martyr, giving his life to protect a priest fleeing persecution. It is believed he died sometime in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-century.

Often assumed to be Irish, **Patrick** was born in the 400s in what we would call England. He was sold into slavery in Ireland, escaped, and gave his life to Christ. He was then sent as a Bishop and missionary to the Irish people, thereby embodying the message of Christ's reconciliation.

**Julian** lived in Norwich, England in the 1300s during the Black Plague and was a mystic, anchoress, and the earliest documented female author in the English language. She emphasized the healing and redemptive power of Jesus' Passion.

Nicknamed “Moses” and born as Araminta Ross, **Harriet Tubman** was born into American slavery and became a liberator, abolitionist, and social activist in the 1800s. Her courage and resolve led her to help enslaved people escape through the Underground Railroad.

**Desmond Tutu** was a South African Anglican bishop and theologian in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. He fought against the injustices of Apartheid and championed the idea of “ubuntu” – the foundation that our identity is rooted in community. In addition to working for justice for the marginalized, he was also a leader in the movement for ecological justice and stewardship.

An Episcopal seminarian from New England, **Jonathan Daniels** heeded the plea of Martin Luther King to come to Selma and ultimately gave his life to protect a young black woman, Ruby Sales, from being murdered. Daniels was martyred in 1965. King said that Daniel's witness was “one of the most heroic Christian deeds of which I have heard in my entire ministry.”

