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## Choral Rading: I have a Name: Readings on Women Through Whom God Worked

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# Choral Reading: I Have A Name

## Readings on Women Through Whom God Worked

LEE MAGNESS

*This series of short readings reflects the contributions of women amidst God's covenant people. The reading might be appropriate for Mother's Day or Pentecost season as a way of celebrating women in the life and ministry of the church. The "I" lines, which are marked with a W, may be read by the same woman or by a series of different women, one for each Biblical character. The "She," lines, which are marked with an R, may be read by a single reader, a reader's choir, or the whole congregation.*

### PROLOGUE

W We are the daughters of God  
We are the sisters and wives and mothers of men  
We were planned by God to be partnered with men  
R They were in the beginning good  
They are in the end graced  
W We are women  
We have names  
R We celebrate their names

### *Eve*

*Gen 1:26-3:24*

W I am also the image, the likeness alike  
I knew the joy of joining, flesh of my flesh  
I shared the shame, felt its effects  
R She was the mother of all living  
Before she fell, she fit  
W I am a woman  
I have a name  
R Her name is Eve

### *Sarah*

*Gen 21:1-7*

W I had a claim to that covenant too  
The promise of son and nation and blessing  
I too laughed and felt little Laughter leap in my womb  
R She was wife and mother to covenant-bearers  
She was a covenant-bearer  
W I am a woman  
I have a name  
R Her name is Sarah

### *Zipporah*

*Exod 2:15-22, 4:24-26*

W I was a foreigner, a stranger to the covenant  
I married a murderer, a man named Moses

I reminded that shepherd of the sign of the covenant  
 R She was the wife of the prophet of God  
 She was the mother of circumcised sons  
 W I am a woman  
 I have a name  
 R Her name is Zipporah

*Miriam**Exod 15:19-21*

W I sang God's people through the sea  
 I saw horse and rider hurled into the sea  
 I danced the daughters across on dry ground  
 R She was a prophet of God  
 She saw and spoke for God  
 W I am a woman  
 I have a name  
 R Her name is Miriam

*Rahab**Josh 2:1-21, 6:15-25*

W I was more than a prostitute—or less, a priestess  
 I lived in the walls that came tumbling down  
 I heard God's hand at work in his people  
 R She protected the people of God with a rope  
 They protected her with a scarlet thread  
 W I am a woman  
 I have a name  
 R Her name is Rahab

*Deborah**Judg 4:4-5:12*

W I dispensed justice in the name of Jehovah  
 I led the Lord's army into battle  
 I arose a mother in Israel  
 R She was a prophet of God  
 She saw and spoke ... and led for God  
 W I am a woman  
 I have a name  
 R Her name is Deborah

*Ruth**Ruth 1:1-4:22*

W I gave my life to my mother-in-law  
 I gave my heart to her kinsman  
 I gave my self to her God  
 R She was the great-grandmother of David  
 She mothered the Messiah  
 W I am a woman  
 I have a name  
 R Her name is Ruth

*Hannah**1 Sam 1:1-28*

W I cried bitter years for a baby  
 I prayed and pled and begged for a baby

I pressed him on the priest, still a baby  
 R She was meant to mother  
 She dedicated her darling to the Lord  
 W I am a woman  
 I have a name  
 R Her name is Hannah

*Huldah*

*2 Kgs 22:1-23:3*

W When they found the long-lost law, the king came to me  
 The king sought out my insight  
 I called for repentance and guided reform  
 R She was a prophet of God  
 She saw and spoke for God  
 W I am a woman  
 I have a name  
 R Her name is Huldah

*Mary*

*Luke 1:26-2:52*

W I was the servant overshadowed by the Lord  
 I suffered the pain of the miracle of his birth  
 I suffered the pain of the miracle of his death  
 R She held him like a son  
 She held him like a sword  
 W I am a woman  
 I have a name  
 R Her name is Mary

*Anna*

*Luke 2:36-38*

W I was only 84 when I finally found him  
 I had waited, relishing the redemption  
 I held him, a toddler in the temple  
 R She was a prophet of God  
 She saw and spoke for ... and saw God  
 W I am a woman  
 I have a name  
 R Her name is Anna

*Mary*

*Luke 8:1-3, 23:55-56*  
*Mark 15:40-41, 16:1-8*  
*John 19:25*

W I had seven demons that he had driven out  
 I followed and financed the steps of my Savior  
 I stood at the cross and knelt at the tomb  
 R She was the first witness of the risen Lord  
 She was the first to go and tell the good news  
 W I am a woman  
 I have a name  
 R Her name is Mary

*Joanna and Susanna*

*Luke 8:1-3*

W We had also been healed  
 We had also helped

We also followed and funded  
 R They were the companions of his way  
 They listened and learned  
 W We too are women  
 We too have names  
 R Their names are Joanna and Susanna

*Mary and Martha**Luke 1:38-42; John 11:1-45*

W We too called him the Christ, the Son of God  
 We loved Lazarus like the brother he was  
 Ours was the last home the Christ called home  
 R They were sisters to each other  
 They were like sisters to the Lord  
 W We are women  
 We have names  
 R Their names are Mary and Martha

*Dorcas**Acts 9:36-42*

W I sewed the clothes the widows wore  
 I sowed the seeds of the gospel with each garment  
 I was raised by Peter in the upper room  
 R She was the seamstress of Joppa  
 She was loved by the lowly  
 W I am a woman  
 I have a name  
 R Her name is Dorcas

*Lydia**Acts 16:13-15*

W I gathered with the women to worship God  
 I listened to Paul at the place of prayer  
 I opened my heart to the way and my home to the wayfarers  
 R She was a buyer and a seller  
 She was baptized with her household  
 W I am a woman  
 I have a name  
 R Her name is Lydia

*Priscilla**Acts 18:2-3, 24-2; Rom 16:3  
1 Cor 16:19; 2 Tim 4:19*

W I taught the teacher the way of the Lord  
 I partnered with Paul in the work of the Lord  
 I opened my home to the household of faith  
 R She was a learner and a teacher  
 She was a wife and a witness  
 W I am a woman  
 I have a name  
 R Her name is Priscilla

*Phoebe**Rom 1:1-2*

W I was his sister, the sister he sent  
 I was a minister, a servant from Cenchrea



R I cared for Paul and cared for his correspondence  
She was a leader in the church of the Lord  
She was a letter-carrier—Romans, no less  
W I am a woman  
I have a name  
R Her name is Phoebe

*Euodia and Syntyche*

*Phil 4:2-3*

W We were his coworkers too  
We wrestled side by side for the sake of the gospel  
When we wrestled he called us together to his side  
R They were Paul's partners in pastoring  
They were pastored by Paul  
W We are women  
We have names  
R Their names are Euodia and Syntyche

*Lois and Eunice*

*2 Tim 1:5*

W We timothied him first in the faith  
We showed him the Shema, taught him the Torah  
We gave to the Lord the one to whom we had given the Lord  
R They were grandmother and mother  
They were his models of ministry  
W We are women  
We have names  
R Their names are Lois and Eunice

**EPILOGUE**

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