

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.

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 close at 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

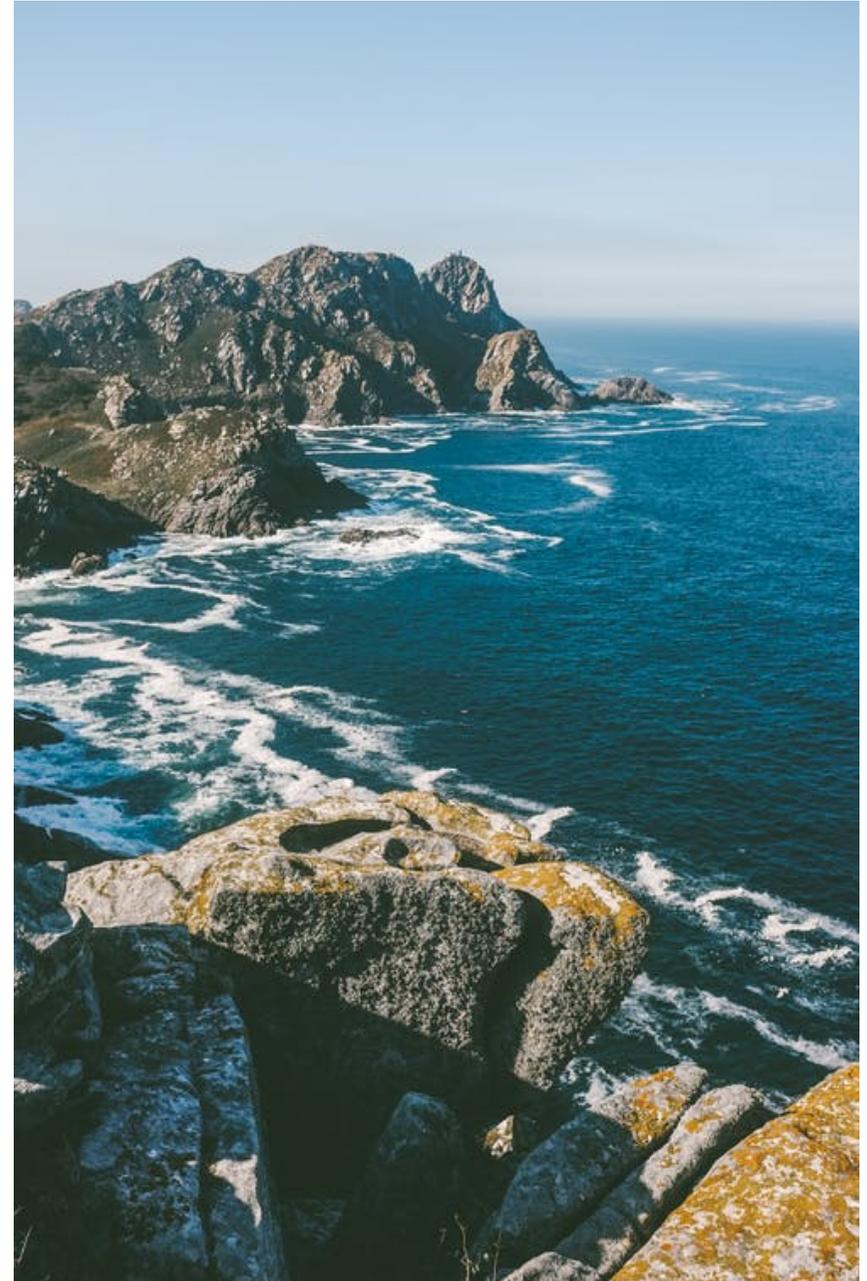
till Jesus stood among them, his womanly elect.

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.

**John Bell**

## The Cotteridge Church

Proper 11 Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022



## **Bible Readings**

Amos 8:1-12

Psalm 52

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

## **Collect for Proper 11**

Almighty God,  
send down upon your Church  
the riches of your Spirit,  
and kindle in all who minister the gospel  
your countless gifts of grace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## **Proper 11**

I have a dream," Jesus at Nazareth:

A young boy of 9 was sitting in his father's workshop watching his dad work on a harness. "Someday Father," said Louis, "I want to be a harness-maker, just like you." "Why not start now?" said the father. He took a piece of leather and drew a design on it. "Now" he said, "take the hole-punch and hammer out this design but be careful that you don't hit your hand." Excited, the boy began to work, but when he hit the hole-punch, it flew out of his hand and pierced his eye! He lost his sight in that eye. Later, as fate would have it, sight in the other eye failed. Louis was now totally blind.

A few years later, Louis was sitting in the family garden when a friend handed him a pinecone. As he ran his sensitive fingers over the cone, an idea came to him. He became enthusiastic and began to create an alphabet of raised dots on paper so that the blind could feel and interpret.

Thus, Louis Braille in 1818 opened up a whole new world for the blind.

What is it that Jesus intends to do during his three years of ministry? It is this: To open up a whole new world for you and for me. To bring us out of our poverty that has long held us down and to restore vision that you and I have long since lost.