

# Reaching Wider & Growing Deeper

**MARCH, 2025  
NEWSLETTER**

## March Theme: They Not Like Us

### March Fighter Verse—Matthew 7:21

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

### OUR WORSHIP IN-PERSON

LIVESTREAM, FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE @ 11:00AM  
[www.centralbaptistnyc.org](http://www.centralbaptistnyc.org)

Nursery available at 10:45a — Infant to 5 years old

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Adult Sunday School 9:45AM In Person and via Zoom**  
**Youth Sunday School 11:15AM**  
**Kindergarten to 12th Grade**  
**2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays.**

### IN THIS ISSUE

General Important Church Information	Page 1
March Devotional Women's History Feature — Amanda Gorman	Page 2
The Hill We Climb Announcements & Church-Wide Events	Page 2-3
Announcements-Bible Studies & Senior Events	Page 4
Praying Together Praying for Elders, Deacons and Trustees	Page 5
March Calendar	Page 6
Missionary of the Month — Luis & Azucena Matuté March Birthdays	Page 7
More Church Wide Events, Capital Campaign The Last Word	Page 8

## March is National Women's History Month



**STAY ALERT**



**The Women's Ministry will be leading a  
special worship service and special  
activities.**

**DATES WILL BE ANNOUNCED**

### CBC AIR RIGHTS COMMITTEE UPDATE

#### SAVE THE DATE!

A Meet & Greet with Savills and Kramer  
on Wednesday, March 12th 7:00-8:30 pm  
via Zoom and in person.

A vote to affirm the existing contractual relationships  
with Savills and Kramer will be held on a date to be  
determined but most likely in April 2025.

#### REMINDER

Written information about the law firm (Kramer) and  
the real estate Broker (Savills) is available for your  
review in the church office. **Please contact the main  
office Monday—Thursday, 10am-6pm**



### NOMINATION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Nomination Committee is asking you to help in our  
search of nominating new Deacons and Trustees. If  
there is a member of the church you believe fits the  
qualifications of a Deacon and or Trustee, please email  
the church office [tglenn@centralbaptistnyc.org](mailto:tglenn@centralbaptistnyc.org)

## MARCH DEVOTIONAL

## THE JOY OF THE LORD

By Debby Holland Diaz MA ThM

**M**ay the hope-inspiring God so fill you with perfect JOY and peace through your continuing faith, that you may bubble over with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 The Williams Translation

After "Strong Hope" last month, I wanted to write you about joy and the Joy of The Lord, which we need so much now! Please let me share what I learned from preparing a sermon I preached to a small Spanish-speaking congregation on February 16; the passage they had me use was Luke 6:17-26. I sensed The Lord leading me to verses 22 and 23:



What struck me most was Jesus telling His disciples to rejoice when they were mistreated for Christ's Sake!

...when they shall hate you and separate you from their company and reproach you and cast out your name as evil for the sake of The Son of Man, rejoice ye in that day and leap for joy! Luke 6: 22-23A, King James Version (KJV)

The New Testament was originally written in Greek. The Greek word for "joy" in Verse 23 is *skirtan*. *Skirtan* is what some baby animals do when they discover they can run: they jump for joy! The English translation specifies "to skip like young calves" and to "gambol" (frolic) like little lambs!

So, this is how Jesus wants us to behave when we're insulted for being observant Christians? Is this as hard for you to understand as it is for me? Frankly, I never understood "The Joy of The Lord" at all until I joined *La Iglesia Bautista*, The Baptist Church of Malaga, Spain, in 1973 and got to know Pastor Luis Hombre, his wife and children. At times I saw that pastor skip for joy! They all bubbled over with happiness, but particularly, Pastor Luis Hombre: he was walking, talking, preaching, teaching, joking, laughing—Joy Personified! I'd never, ever found such genuine joy in one person!

When my parents visited me in 1974, my dad, a pastor, met privately with Pastor Hombre and a missionary who interpreted for them. Later Dad told Mom and me that after the Spanish Civil War ended in 1939, General Franco enacted "mop-up operations" all over Spain. For example, crowds of Socialists were rounded up in every town and shot dead in the local bullring. Non-Catholic pastors were persecuted.

Luis, 16, his mother and sisters were forced to watch while soldiers tortured their father, finally killing him for refusing to recant his Baptist beliefs or to say The Hail Mary.

I was stunned. How could anyone survive such an ordeal with their wits in tact, much less live life with Joy? Yet this is what

Luis Hombre did: he became a pastor like his father, preached every Sunday and got arrested every Monday until tourism began changing Spain in the 1960's.

I pray that none of us have to suffer for our faith the way the Hombre family did, but oh, that we Christians can learn to live with the Joy I saw in them!

How do we do that? How do we learn to live out the Joy of the Lord? I would very much like to hear from you on this, please: email me at vickyvisit@outlook.com.

In the meantime, we can start with the Word of God. There is so much joy in The Bible! In The New Strong's Concordance of The Bible, the word "joy," in small print, takes up an entire printed column and a half, from I Samuel to Jude 24, with verses like these:

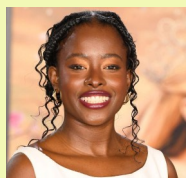
The joy of the lord is your strength. —Nehemiah 8:10  
 In Thy Presence is fullness of joy. — Psalm 16: 11  
 Eat thy bread with joy. — Ecclesiastes 9:7  
 Increase their joy in The Lord.—Isaiah 29:19  
 I will joy in The God of my salvation. — Habakkuk 3:18  
 Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. — Matthew 25:21  
 ...to Jerusalem with great joy. — Luke 24:52  
 in my name ask...that your joy may be full. — John 16:24  
 ...that my joy is the joy of you all. — II Corinthians 2:3  
 ...all for your furtherance and joy of faith. — Philippians 1:25  
 ...ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. -I Peter 1:8  
 (KJV) King James Version



## Women's History Month Feature Amanda Gorman

### ABOUT AMANDA GORMAN

<https://www.theamandagorman.com/>



Amanda Gorman is an award-winning writer and *cum laude* graduate of Harvard University, where she studied Sociology. She has written for the *New York Times* and has three books forthcoming with Penguin Random House.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, she began writing at only a few years of age. Now her words have won her invitations to the Obama White House and to perform for Lin-Manuel Miranda, Al Gore, Secretary Hillary Clinton, Malala Yousafzai, and others. Amanda has performed multiple commissioned poems for CBS This Morning and she has spoken at events and venues across the country, including the Library of Congress and Lincoln Center. She has received a Genius Grant from OZY Media, as well as recognition from Scholastic Inc., YoungArts, the *Glamour* magazine College Women of the Year Awards, and the Webby Awards. She has written for the *New York Times* newsletter *The Edit* and penned the manifesto for Nike's 2020 Black History Month campaign. In 2017, Amanda Gorman was appointed the first-ever National Youth Poet Laureate by

Urban Word – a program that supports Youth Poets Laureate in more than 60 cities, regions and states nationally. She is the recipient of the Poets & Writers Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award, and is the youngest board member of 826 National, the largest youth writing network in the United States.

She composed and read *The Hill We Climb* was composed and read for the Inauguration of President Joe Biden, January 2021. She is the first person to be named the National Youth Poet Laureate and the youngest inaugural poet in US history. She was 23 years old.

The Hill We Climb is spoken word poem. Read it aloud and relish the rhythms, rhymes, and alliteration word play. Enjoy! If you happen to feel that you're reading something relevant for today, that's what poets do.

### "The Hill We Climb"

Amanda Gorman

When day comes we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never- ending shade? The loss we carry, a sea we must wade. We've braved the belly of the beast, we've learned that quiet isn't always peace and the norms and notions of what just is, isn't always justice. And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it, somehow we do it, somehow we've weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken but simply unfinished.

We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president only to find herself reciting for one. And, yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine, but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect, we are striving to forge a union with purpose, to compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man.

So we lift our gazes not to what stands between us, but what stands before us. We close the divide because we know to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside. We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another, we seek harm to none and harmony for all.

Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true: that even as we grieved, we grew, even as we hurt, we hoped, that even as we tired, we tried, that we'll forever be tied together victorious, not because we will never again know defeat but because we will never again sow division.

Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree and no one should make them afraid.\* If we're to live up to our own time, then victory won't lie in the blade, but in in all of the bridges we've made.

That is the promise to glade, the hill we climb if only we dare it because being American is more than a pride we inherit, it's the past we step into and how we repair it. We've seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it. That would

destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy, and this effort very nearly succeeded. But while democracy can periodically be delayed, but it can never be permanently defeated.

In this truth, in this faith, we trust, for while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us, this is the era of just redemption we feared in its inception we did not feel prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour but within it we found the power to author a new chapter, to offer hope and laughter to ourselves, so while once we asked how can we possibly prevail over catastrophe, now we assert how could catastrophe possibly prevail over us.

We will not march back to what was but move to what shall be, a country that is bruised but whole, benevolent but bold, fierce and free, we will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation, our blunders become their burden. But one thing is certain: if we merge mercy with might and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birthright.

So let us leave behind a country better than the one we were left, with every breath from my bronze, pounded chest, we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one, we will rise from the golden hills of the West, we will rise from the windswept Northeast where our forefathers first realized revolution, we will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the Midwestern states, we will rise from the sunbaked South, we will rebuild, reconcile, and recover in every known nook of our nation in every corner called our country our people diverse and beautiful will emerge battered and beautiful, when the day comes we step out of the shade aflame and unafraid, the new dawn blooms as we free it, for there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it.

\*Micah 4:4



## Church Wide Events — Celebrating Community



### Central Baptist Church Senior's Ministry

Invites you to: "NOAH"

Sight & Sound Theatre Lancaster, PA

**Saturday, July 19, 2025**

Leave Central at 8:00am – Return at 9:30pm

Tour Includes: Deluxe Motor Coach

Transportation, Buffet Luncheon at Millers Smorgasbord,  
Shopping at Tanger's Outlet Discount Center

Cost: **\$240.00** Per Person (Deposit and 2 Payment)

Deposit of **\$40.00** due **ASAP** to Secure Seat.

**Make Checks or Money Orders payable to:** Central Baptist  
Church (Note on check *Senior Trip*)

See Otis Coleman regarding payment plan. All payments are to be given to **Otis Coleman**.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opportunities to come together to learn, pray and fellowship.

## BIBLE STUDY

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### Adult

9:45AM— In person and via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Phone: 646-558-8656

#### Sunday Youth Group

11:15AM—2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays

In-Person OR

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Phone: 646-558-8656



### Senior Bible Study

Wednesdays

12 Noon to 1:00pm

Miss Ann's Room

**I**f we're creating disciples properly, discipleship goes beyond personal improvement. We are preparing those who will embrace God's mission and are passionate to continue it.

Robert Casteline

**Curious? Confused? Attend Wednesday in the Word.**

### WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD

7:00—8:00PM

Wednesday Night Bible study is a great way to keep your heart and mind on God! Join us for an interactive, in-depth reflection on the scriptures and how they can be applied to your life.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Join Zoom by Phone: 646-558-8656



Join us as we explore and diagnose our spiritual health.

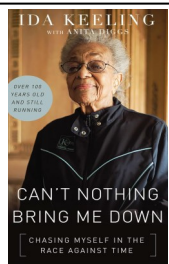
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Or dial in on your phone:

(646) 558-8656

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

## Senior Ministry Events



### Senior Book Club

Saturday, April 5, 2025

2:00pm - 4:00pm Miss Ann's Room

"Can't Nothing Bring Me Down—Chasing Myself in the Race Against Time"

By Ida Keeling w/ Anita Diggs



### Senior Ministry Exercise Program

Time: 11:00am to 11:45am

Location: Chapel

Saturday, March 1

Saturday, March 8

Saturday, March 22

Saturday, March 29

### Senior Technology

### "Basic Cell Phone Usage"

Wednesdays

11:00am to 12 Noon

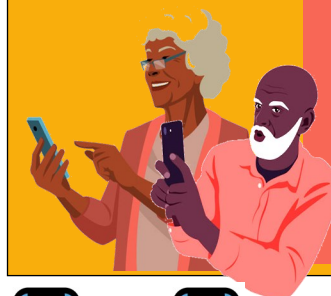
March 5

March 12

March 19

March 26

Miss Ann's Room



### SENIOR MINISTRY MONTHLY MEETING

Saturday, March 15, 2025

2pm to 4pm - Chapel

## Praying Together

**W**ith so many opportunities to pray corporately with one another. Below are the leaders and ministries who need your prayers. Create a prayer journal and keep track of the requests and praise reports.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	CITY, STATE, COUNTRY & PERSONAL
Pastor Fils-Aime	New York City
Pastor Robert Casteline	Leadership of NYC, State and Country
Willana Mack Hudson	The World and personal circumstances
Deacons & Elders	
Ministries	
Missionaries	
Members and Friends of Central	
Sick and Shut-in	

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16*

### DAILY PRAYER MEETING BY CONFERENCE PHONE

Led by Elder Deryck and Sonya Tonge  
(609) 746-1164  
Access Code: 667293#  
Monday — Friday  
6-6:30 AM

### EVENING PRAYER

Friday, March 28, 2025  
At 7:00PM  
Via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.  
Phone: 646-558-8656

## Praying for our Leadership

**B**elow are the names of our Elders, Trustees and Deacons. Please pray for them and their families. As members of our congregation, we each have a Deacon who will reach out to you periodically to see how you're doing and if you have any needs or prayer requests.

If you don't know who your Deacon is, email [deaconsasmarch2024@groups.outlook.com](mailto:deaconsasmarch2024@groups.outlook.com) or call the church office and leave a message requesting a call from your Deacon.



### ELDERS

Rev. John Fils-Aime  
Rev. Robert Casteline\*  
Vincent Clark\*

\*Interim for 1 year



### TRUSTEES

Myrna Phillips Gibson  
Taji Phillips




### DEACONS

Deacon Kimberly Casteline  
Deacon Otis Coleman  
Deacon Sharrata Hunt  
Deacon Michelle Newkirk  
Deacon Joyce Powell  
Deacon Sherry Reid  
Deacon Esther Romero



**L**et us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

# March 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <i>Keep watch for Women's Ministry special Women's Day events.</i>						<b>1</b> 9:30A-12:00P- Pickleball 11:00-11:45A- Senior Exercise— Chapel
<b>2</b> 9:45A —Adult Sunday School  11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP  11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>3</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>4</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>5</b> <b>LENTEN SEASON BEGINS</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study-Chapel	<b>6</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>7</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>8</b> 10A-RIVERSIDE REHAB 9:30A-12:00P- Pickleball 11:00-11:45A- Senior Exercise— Chapel
<b>9</b> <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS</b> 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>10</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>11</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>12</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study-Chapel 7P-Wed Nite Bible Study—ZOOM	<b>13</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>14</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>15</b> 9:30A-12:00P- Pickleball 2P-Senior Ministry Meeting— Chapel
<b>16</b> 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>17</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>18</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>19</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study-Chapel	<b>20</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>21</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>22</b> 9:30A-12:00P- Pickleball 11:00-11:45A- Senior Exercise— Ms. Ann's
<b>23</b> 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>24</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>25</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>26</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  11A-12P—Senior Technology Class	<b>27</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>28</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7pm-Evening Prayer Zoom	<b>29</b> 9:30A-12:00P- Pickleball 11:00-11:45A- Senior Exercise— Ms. Ann's
<b>30</b> 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP— YOUTH SUNDAY	<b>31</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call					

## Missionary of the Month



### Luis and Azucena Matuté World Outreach Ministries

February 2025



**W**hat a joy it is to greet you again and thank you for your prayers and help with God's work!



#### Personal Update:

I thank the Lord for making it possible for me to attend the BILD Global Summit in Ames, Iowa.

#### Matuté Family Update:

- My youngest daughter, Janie, has finished her medical social service in Honduras. We thank you for your prayers.
- We greatly appreciate your prayers and support for our oldest daughter, Azucenita. She is already walking so much better post surgery that in January she participated in a medical short-term mission trip in Costa Rica with one of the doctors who was her surgeon.
- Azucena, my wife, is happy because she was able to give the children Christmas presents and a good meal to celebrate Christ's birth.

#### Ministry Update:

- Parkside Church will come this March to build our second classroom.
- We will begin to give classes for network leaders, church leaders, and believers in general.

#### Prayer requests:

- For the upcoming journey of the group from Parkside
- For the students of the Bible studies
- For the movement of the spontaneous expansion of the multiplication of churches in houses. Our deep gratitude for your prayers and support for the work of God in Panama.

In Christ's Love,  
The Matute Family

To financially assist the Matute Family:

P.O.Box B  
Marietta, GA 30061  
Phone & Fax:  
(770) 424- 1545  
[www.worldoutreach.org](http://www.worldoutreach.org)

**Rev. Luis y Azucena Matute**  
Panama & Central America Coordinator  
Cell Phone: 00 507 67807440  
E-Mail: [matutepm@gmail.com](mailto:matutepm@gmail.com)  
To Donate: [www.worldoutreach.org/856](http://www.worldoutreach.org/856)

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

***You are truly a gift from God to us.***

***May you enjoy every moment of your special day.***  
**Happy Birthday!**



Viola Holmes	Mar 3
Cristal Tejeda	Mar 5
Adelle Marcelin	Mar 7
Jahzara Bryant	Mar 9
Elijah Rivera	Mar 11
Laticia Smith	Mar 11
Kristy Fils-Aime	Mar 14
Evelyn Trowell	Mar 17
Oliver Lair	Mar 18
Nadja Hicks	Mar 19
Jordan Winn	Mar 19
Diane Singleton	Mar 20
Willana Mack	Mar 20
Ezekiel Uhrlas	Mar 21
Annie Friend	Mar 23
Xavier Lambert	Mar 24
Mamie Murray	Mar 27
Yemani Vasquez	Mar 31



10% of Central's tithes and offerings go to support our missionaries.



## MORE Church Wide and Community Events



150 Riverside Drive  
& West 87th Street,  
New York, NY 10024

Each 2nd Saturday Central goes to The Riverside center to bring the residents a worship service. Come and bring a willing heart to serve. We meet at the church at 10AM and walk over to the center as a group. Ministry ends around 12 noon. See the upcoming dates.

March 15

April 12

May 10



**Saturdays**  
**9:30-12 noon in Lower Gym**

**Open to the public.**  
**All levels.**  
**Equipment available.**

**R**emember this: *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

**Keep Central's  
finances in  
prayer!**



**Campaign Goal: 100,000.00.**  
**Will report quarterly. Next  
update in March, 2025**

**Newsletter Staff:** Pastor Robert Casteline, Oversight; Paulette Forbes-Igharo and Sharrata Hunt. Special thanks to Debby Diaz, Nadja Hicks, and Tanya Glenn.

## The Last Word

### The Hills They Climbed

by Nadja Hicks

*"Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this." Esther 4:14 (HCSB)*

*"I will go to the king even if it is against the law. If I perish, I perish." Esther 4:16 (HCSB)*

*The Hill We Climb* is Amanda Gorman's luminous work of unflinching honesty and engaging wisdom about our country. Poetic and insightful, her words strike to the heart of brutish realities yet fasten onto hope. Hope in the midst of struggle when the outcome is uncertain, yet that same searing ground can become the soil out of which better futures grow. A theme that applies to wider landscapes than America.

This month we honor women throughout history. Over 250 appear in the Bible. Women as diverse and fascinating as their stories. Esther was an orphaned Jewish girl elevated to Persian royalty and God's instrument to prevent a genocide against her people. Rachel and Leah, birthed nations out of their rivalry. Deborah accompanied an army in battle. Anna was over 90 when she recognized the baby Messiah in the Temple. Ruth gleaned fields she would later own. Hannah prayed so fervently the priest thought she was drunk. Abigail cooled David's temper and headed off a massacre. Jael overcame a seasoned military leader with a tent peg and a cup of buttermilk.

Jesus' family line includes Ruth, a Moabite; Bathsheba, an adulteress; Tamar who disguised herself as a prostitute, and Rahab who *was* one. Even His mother, Mary, faced being quietly divorced by Joseph had it not been for divine intervention to assure him of her innocence.

Women, some that society would've scorned, are counted among patriarchs and kings. Later a grateful woman washed Jesus' feet with her tears. An unclean woman touched the hem of His garment with such faith He felt her draw power out of Him. A shamed woman went to a well to draw water but found the Savior instead.

Women at the cross. Women at the tomb. A woman the first to declare He had risen. Women with watershed moments; with watershed lives. Biblical women had hills that required risk and faith to climb. Women God gave illustrious futures beyond the painful complicated journeys to get there.

