

A Prayer for Jerusalem Sunday 2018

This prayer is an adaptation of the Sisters of Mercy prayer, itself an adaption of Sr. Miriam Therese Winter's "Valiant Women".

Leader: Who shall find a valiant woman?

All: **Who shall find a valiant woman?**

Reader 1: Look! We are all around you:
In the work rooms of industry,
And of every functioning enterprise,
Unheralded, invisible,
Some say non-existent,
But we know otherwise.

All: **Who shall find a valiant woman?**

Reader 2: Look! We are all around you:
Contributing, setting standards,
Changing the course of history,
Preparing, supporting,
Challenging those resentful of our collective claims and capabilities.

All: **Who shall find a valiant woman?**

Reader 3: Look! We are all around you:
Woman of courage, compassionate, patient,
Our number is legion, our gifts diverse.
Our prayer is history hear,
History is cognizant of,
History one day recalls our names.

Reader 1: We honour the women of the Hebrew scriptures,
Sarah and Hagar, Shipfrah and Puah, Naomi, Ruth, Debra, and Miriam,
Mary, Mother of Jesus
Whose courage, persistence, love and fidelity
Kept the lineage of faith alive.

Reader 2: We honour the women of Jesus' time
Martha, Mary of Magdalan, the Samaritan woman, Veronica and Lydia
Who cared for the community of believers;
Who followed Jesus to Calvary and stayed,
Who buried Him,
Who proclaimed Jesus' resurrection
Who passed the Gospel to their families, friends and strangers.

Reader 3: We honour the women of the Diocese of Jerusalem today
Living stones upon ancient foundations

Who remind us of the promises of Christ,
Who claim the Gospel for women and girls,
Who strain against a patriarchal church and challenge us to grow.
Shafeeqa Dawani, President of Episcopal Women's Ministry, Suhaila Tarazi, Director,
Ahli Arab Hospital, Gaza City, Dolly Dastoor Principal, St. George's School Jerusalem,
and all women serving in local parishes, schools and clinics.

Leader: Living God, today we gather in and among your Presence.
Valiant women throughout the world,
And everyone gathered here, raise our voices in petition
For your promise of wholeness – fullness of life –
To be realized and respected in our churches, our works and in our lives.
This we pray in your Name.

All: **Amen**