

Walking in the Wilderness – Seeds of Wild Honey

The songs on this CD all arose out of times of need, when there were not appropriate songs for various communities to use. For example, *Woman Blessing* was written because the liturgy committee for "Women Clothed with the Sun", the 3rd Gathering on Women in the Uniting Church in 1996, could not find a blessing which referred specifically to our foremothers in the bible. In fact the first 5 songs all date from this special gathering. They are great songs to use for occasions where the community might want to look at the topic of voicelessness and marginalisation. Some songs like *Song of the Heights* can be adapted for women only worship, or for inclusive worship.

The next five songs were all written for special occasions, and can be used for similar occasions:

Circle - a celebration of a woman's achievements in her community

Temple of the Body - baptismal renewal

Daughter - the christening of a girl child, and there is now one for a boy too, but not on this CD

Christmas is Coming - for an Australian Christmas, and it can be sung as a round

While the World Grew Dark - for Easter, to remind us of the women's part in the story

The next 3 songs were commissioned by Dr Elaine Wainwright, for the launch of her book "Shall we Look for Another?" They encapsulate her methodology and her themes in the book, and would be useful when studying the book or the subject matter, a new look at who Jesus really was and what constructions have been overlaid on this person over the past 2,000 years.

Behold the Man - a challenging song which subverts the gender roles, with the women singing the Latin usually sung by male priests, and reminding us about Jesus and his communities.

Of Bread and Dogs and Her Desire - the story of the Caananite woman, Justa, and sung from her perspective. It is a powerful and empowering song for women to sing, based on Matthew 15: 21-28.

Jesus the Christ of Rachel's Lineage - this song tells the story, often forgotten, of Jesus' foremothers as well as forefathers, and of the community of apostles including women as well as men. It is based on the Gospel of Matthew.

The next two songs were also commissioned by Dr Wainwright to complement her work on the connection between Jesus and the Sophia of God, Wisdom. The first one, *Sophia Wisdom*, is a direct setting of Proverbs 9: 1-6, the passage used to open the first chapter in Elizabeth Schussler Fiorenza's book, "Jesus: Miriam's Child, Sophia's Prophet". The second one, *Jesus Sophia*, is based on Matthew 11: 2-5;19, and for example, would be most appropriate to accompany this reading.

Woman Cello Chant/Soundscape/We are Women Walking, and *My Hour it has Come* both come from an installation and performance, "From Myth to Reality: Pandora and Eve" devised by Adele Neal and Colleen Geyer. The first one is a challenging song to perform, with an instrumental based on Greek modes and rhythms, a soundscape, and a final song incorporating the voices of Pandora, Eve and all women as they have been treated, viewed and constructed over the centuries in Western European society. The second, *My Hour it has Come*, refers to both the Christ and women, who bleed for humanity. There is an echo of the female Christa statues and paintings. It is used sometimes for inclusive eucharistic worship.

Eagle Wing Blessing, the final song, is a bit of bluesy fun, our last recording, but has a serious intent – it comes from the Gathering, and specifically the fifth area, the Eagle Space. Again it reminds us that some people have been rendered voiceless and this is not just.

You can obtain copies of the CD by emailing...

If you are interested in obtaining copies of any of the songs, please email Lorna at lorna@lornacollingridge.net.