

**Sunday Worship for 21st June
Second Sunday after Trinity**



Introduction

Though we cannot come together physically, we gather spiritually as the family of God in our Father's presence to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his holy word, to bring before him the needs of the world, to ask forgiveness for our sins and to seek his grace, that, through his son Jesus Christ we may give ourselves for his service.

Service leader's intro from Jane Firth

Good morning and welcome. It seems a little less strange to be preparing an on line service this time around. We are all getting used to change and a new type of normal. My week has been a little more normal with a visit to the dentist to replace a crown that had dislodged, all very straightforward just with extra hygiene in place. In addition, a trip to a local independent clothes

shop that Steven and I like to support. I was given a 30-minute appointment and the full attention of the assistant. I quite like this type of service, it seems quite old fashioned, and yes, I finally had the chance to get a long-awaited birthday present (my birthday was back in March). But of course, we had the good news that St Marys is now open for those who would like to pray. Our thanks must go the Church Wardens and partners for all their hard work to ensure that the church is a safe place to visit and for all the additional cleaning associated with it being open daily. Let's hope and pray that the re-closure is just a temporary blip.

On this day as we celebrate Fathers Days in lock down, with a few less regulations in place, hopefully some families can meet up, but strange all the same and a hard time for the many who have lost their father either recently or in the past years. Let's celebrate the day and all the other days when we can give thanks in prayer that the day, the week, the month has passed safely and look forward to all getting together soon.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

And also with you

**Lord, direct our thoughts
teach us to pray.
Lift up our hearts to worship you
in spirit and in truth
through Jesus Christ.
Amen**

The night has passed and the day lies open before us. Let us pray with one heart and mind.
Silence is kept

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
So may the light of your presence, O God,
Set our hearts on fire with love for you;
Now and forever.

Amen

Song: Be still

**Be still for the presence of the Lord
The holy one is here
Come bow before him now
With reverence and fear
In him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord
The holy one is here**

**Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
He burns with holy fire
With splendour he is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant king of light
Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around**

**Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister his grace
No work too hard for him
In faith receive from him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.**

Confession

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry,
and repent of all our sins
For your Son our Lord
Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself,
and cleanse us from all our sins
that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

Readings

1 Samuel 1: 9-18

⁹ Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord's house. ¹⁰ In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. ¹¹ And she made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." ¹² As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³ Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk ¹⁴ and said to her, "How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine." ¹⁵ "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. ¹⁶ Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." ¹⁷ Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him." ¹⁸ She said, "May your servant find favour in your eyes." Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 7: 11-17

¹¹ Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. ¹² As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry." ¹⁴ Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. ¹⁶ They were all filled with awe and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." ¹⁷ This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

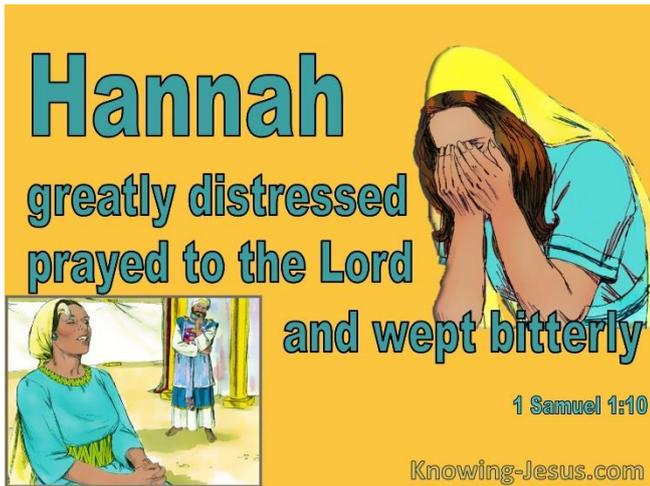
Talk (by Brian Settle)

INTRODUCTION:

Isaiah 54 v1 "Sing, O barren one, you who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who did not travail with child! For the (spiritual) children of the desolate one will be more than the children of the married wife, says the Lord"

Hannah is our 3rd woman in this mini-series on women in the bible. First, we had Deborah a prophetess and ruler of her nation, then we had Martha head of her household it would seem, but now we get Hannah; a wife, barren and anxious, soon to be known as the mother of Samuel! But wait, we shouldn't put labels on people, Hannah is Hannah first and foremost. A praying woman, a believer, full of integrity, honest and sincere. That's who Hannah is, but unfortunately in her society women occupied a low station, they were

treated as less than men. She was somebody's wife and somebody's mother (one day soon) Not only that but she had to share her husband and if that's not enough, the other woman was prolific in child bearing for the husband. Which is always a good thing to do if you live in a male dominated world. So how did Hannah get on? Let's find out together.



MAIN:

In the books of 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel we read of the beginning of an Israel monarchy. In the Jewish scriptures it's just one book under the 'former prophets' section. In our Bible we read of a prophet who anoints the first king in 1 Sam (Saul) and then anoints the 'best king'(David) in 2 Sam. We all know who the best King is but that's for another time. So first we read the story where Hannah is involved; not only is she blessed by God for expressing herself but she also shows great integrity by keeping to her word, something which many men in the bible seem to find difficult to do.

As we know from the reading; Hannah is upset and her husband doesn't know why? In v,8 "Hannah why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? (Here It comes) AM I NOT BETTER TO YOU THAN 10 SONS" Men, we always get it wrong with our wives- it's not about us. It's about her grief; she is miserable, she knows Elkanah loves her but she can't give him any children, the one thing in her society back then that would bring her some honour, respect, even dignity and it seems she can't even do that. Not only that, but the other wife has given him plenty of children and doesn't she know it, provoking Hannah every time they go to Shiloh and probably on every occasion that she can get away with. 'He might love you more but I'm the one who gives him his offspring' she might have said.

To a degree I understand the grief that Hannah felt as a barren woman. I have step children, Foster children and grandchildren who have now all grown up (thankfully) Some say dad and one says grandad but mostly they say Brian, which is my name after all. But I look on them with a father's heart, which is the most important aspect anyway. However, I am a man in a man's world in many respects and even now our society has many prejudices in built that we haven't sorted out – yet!! I do remember the grief my niece showed when it seemed she couldn't conceive, they tried for many years with fertility treatments but nothing happened (you may know others like this) Then suddenly before starting any more treatments – with God there are always suddenly moments – she became pregnant. The joy she showed was far more than the grief before. Hannah showed that joy before anything changed by believing the words of her prophet Eli, such faith.

Back to Hannah and her grief – but not for much longer – As a family they went to the Holy Place in Shiloh, where the ark of the covenant was placed in the temple, they went every year so Elkanah could offer sacrifices to God on behalf of his family. This was an important ritual that all the people of Israel tried to do and Shiloh was an important place in their lives. Once the family had eaten, but not Hannah, she made her move to petition God directly and with all her heart and soul she poured out her frustration and request.



Guess what, another man got it wrong. This time it was Eli the priest; Eli thought Hannah was inebriated and told her off for being drunk and disorderly near the temple. Thankfully God knows our heart and he doesn't get things wrong, just because we don't look right sometimes to mortal men.

V.17-18 Then Eli answered and said "Go in peace and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked him" And she said "Let your maidservant find favour in your sight" So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

Her face was no longer sad!! Nothing had changed at this point; she was still Hannah, the woman with no children, Elkanah was still her husband, Peninnah and her children were just the same. But everything had changed once God's messenger spoke to her; she no longer felt downcast or bereft, now she was full of hope and able to face the future. We know the beginning from the end in this story, just like God knows our own journey through life on earth, but Hannah didn't know what to expect and still she believed by faith and it was credited to her with the birth of Samuel her first born son.

Whatever is on your heart; I urge you to petition God with your prayers and requests and keep on doing it until you hear from him, he will answer you but it may not be in your time scale or even when you expect it. Remember last week how Paul told us about Jesus waiting 4 days until he went to save Lazarus from death – phew!! 4 days in a hot climate would have made a right stink. Also, we had our other reading today from Luke; where we again see that nothing is impossible for God, a mother's plea for her dead son, Jesus had compassion for her and gave the son back to his mother. No prayer is impossible for God to respond to, as long as it's in his will for our lives.

ENDING:

Let me finish with a bit of testimony and a caution; In 1995 Ann & I went to Israel for our honeymoon (we got married in 1990 but hey ho), as we entered Jerusalem, the tour guide told us we were going to the Western Wall and we should go and pray at the wall. 'If you think it's not for you' he said, then read what Solomon said about the foreigner. 2 Chronicles 6:32 "As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm – when they come and pray towards this temple, 33 then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel" (the Western Wall is all that remains of King Solomon's temple and even today they have rooms underground, at the wall, where they pray night and day for the return of their temple)

So, at the wall you are divided into men on the left and women on the right with a small barrier down the middle as is their custom, also the men have to wear a skullcap which fits nicely over your bald spot, if you have one. We both went and placed our bits of paper with our prayer requests on (not knowing what the other had written) in the wall. Afterwards we asked each other what the other had written: we had both asked God to provide a large house so we could look after more children!

That was 1995; we waited and waited; my mum died in 1995 so that took a while to get over. Our daughter in law was waiting on the transplant list so we had to help with our grandson who was born by a miracle in

1994, then she had new lungs fitted in 1999 and began her new life at the age of 28. We moved into our 7 bedroomed house in May 2000; from here we brought up our family of extra children and then looked after Ann's Mum and Dad until they passed away in 2016 and 2019 respectively. Our house is now up for sale and we hope to move in the next few months.

The caution is this; when you make a petition to God make sure you remember the vow you make. Hannah said she would give her son Samuel to the Lord, once he was weaned and she did. It must have been agony for her, and yes, she did have more children but even so it must have been difficult, only seeing your first-born son once a year. My mother, an orphan, had a baby in 1945 whom she had to give up for adoption as she had no one and it was war time. The society told her to keep the baby until they could find him some parents. John was 18 months old when my mum finally had to hand him over. It must have been agony for my mum to leave John and she didn't see him for nearly 40 years. So, it must have been hard for Hannah to leave Samuel with Eli and the women who attended to the temple.

These past 20 years have been very difficult for Ann and me but we made a promise to God and he kept his side of the bargain, so it was only right that we kept ours. So do go and ask God for your heart's desire, remember to keep your side of the promise and all will go well for you too. I would normally invite anyone that needs prayer to go in the Chapel after the service, but we are not there yet. It is so important that if this talk has raised anything you can't deal with by yourself, that you 'phone a trusted friend' or 'call a vicar person' or even ring me! I am sure Ann would be delighted to pray with you if it is too sensitive for a mortal man to hear. God loves to hear us sharing our testimony with each other as it is one way that we defeat the devil.

Rev 12:11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

'Be a blessing to everyone you meet this week and remember to receive your blessings from God each and every day of your lives', as Joyce Meyer would say 'enjoy everyday life' When we give our lives to Jesus we get eternal life; not just for when we get to heaven but now every day is your eternal life, so go and enjoy every minute of eternity, it would be silly not to!!'

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named...**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts
through faith,
and fills us with his love...**

**We believe in God
the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high....**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Song: Be thou my vision

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, Thou my true word,
I ever with thee, thou with me Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**

**Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower:
Raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart;
High king of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of heaven, after victory's won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Prayers (written by Jenny Braddy)

Let us begin with a positive prayer written by Mary Alueel Ngohgdit Garang, a travelling evangelist from the war-torn and disease-ridden country of Sudan.

Let us give thanks to the Lord in the Day of Devastation
And in the day of contentment
Jesus has bound the world round
with the pure light of the word of the Father
When we beseech the Lord and unite our hearts and have hope
Then the Evil One has no power
God has not forgotten us
Evil is departing and holiness is advancing
These are the things that shake the earth
Do not look back
We are the people who have received the light of Christ
Let us show forth the light of the Son of God.
Do what you are able to do
According to the gift, which has been given you.

Father we know that you are here with us. Make us sensitive to your presence.

We thank you for the gift of our church. Thank you that our church building is now open. Help us to appreciate our church, to encourage each other, to pray for each other and support each other and not give up. Take from us feelings of despair and fear for the future. Please bless and protect those who prepare the worship, those who look after our church building and those who help to keep us together and safe.

Lord in your mercy - **Hear our Prayer**

On this Father's Day and as we learn about Hannah and her family let us focus on our own families, our church family and those we love. We thank you our Father God for them all.

Surround them with your love and protection and help us all to grow closer to you.

Be with those who are finding it hard to cope - to deal with isolation. Help us all to rest on you, to cast our cares on you.

We pray for those families where there is neglect and abuse.

Give us all opportunities to act as a mother or father to those in need.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord we bring before you today those families living in war zones and places where there is little food and dirty water. We ask for your blessing on the relief organisations such as Tear Fund and Christian Aid that work to relieve their suffering. Especially today we pray for the people of the Yemen and for 'Medecin sans Frontier' as it sends medical help there

Lord in your mercy - Hear our Prayer

Be with all those who are in need of healing whether from broken relationships, from sickness and infirmity, depression or grief.

We name before you those people that we know need your healing hand.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

And we remember before God those who have died. Those who have died in recent days and our own dear loved ones. May they rest in your peace and rise in glory

And finally Lord we pray for ourselves.

All through this day, Lord Jesus, help us to be quick to praise, and slow to criticise, quick to forgive and slow to condemn, quick to share and slow to refuse to give.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers, for the sake of Your Son
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

[Collect for the day](#)

**Faithful Creator,
whose mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to you
and to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen**

The Peace

At this point, we would normally share God's peace with each other. We cannot do that physically but please spend a few minutes now praying for specific people at St. Mary's...

Song: Come let us sing of a wonderful love

**Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true;
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.**

**Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell,
joyfully came;
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame;
seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.**

**Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
Why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
Home! weary wanderers, home!
Wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.**

**Come to my heart, O Thou wonderful Love,
come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride;
seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of Thee.**

The Blessing

**The Lord bless us and watch over us,
the Lord make his face shine upon us
and be gracious to us,
the Lord look kindly on us
and give us peace**

Go in peace to love
and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ,
Amen.