

PRAYING

We wait upon the Holy Spirit to gift us with renewing grace.

Oh self-surrendering God,
you are glad for each gift we offer up to you.
As Hannah gave up everything she had prayed for,
everything she had longed for,
everything you blessed her with,
it seems her heart did not break
and that you blessed her more.
So, in the laying down of everything we pray for,
everything we long for,
may we too know your blessing
breaking in our lives.

Amen.

We meet your Word in the hurts and healings of our lives.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We express our thanks for the work of Christian Aid Week.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We offer no less than ourselves.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We bear before you parents who have lost a child through illness,
accident or violence.
(Pause) Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We wait upon the work of your Spirit as we say the Lord's Prayer
together: **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.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with strength to make bold decisions.**
Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with tenacity.**
Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with profligate generosity.**
Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with yourself.**



DAILY WAITING

Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there
for the promise of the Father. Acts 1:4

*This service is for use by individuals or groups and can be
adapted to suit your context. Hymns, worship songs and
additional prayers may be added as you wish. Italic text is
intended as instruction, plain text is to be read by a leader,
bold text is to be read together.*

GATHERING

*As you begin your time of prayer, take a moment of silence
to remember and delight in the promise of the Holy Spirit
Jesus gives to all his disciples. Read the following from
John 14 together:*

**I will ask the Father, and he will give you another
Counsellor to be with you forever - the Spirit of
truth... On that day you will know that I am in my
Father, and you in me, and I in you.**

*Make a sign of being present to God and one another – light
a candle, open a Bible, share the peace....*

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Come, Holy Spirit, be with us as we pray

And leave us not as orphans.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew us in body, mind and spirit

And send us out to be your presence in your world.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Optional hymn or worship song.

CHANGED LIVES @ CHANGING LIVES



NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2018

DAY 4: OFFER
Monday 14 May

LISTENING

1 Samuel 1:25b-28

They brought the child to Eli. And she said, “Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.”

She left him there for the Lord.

REFLECTING

(The image for this text can be found in the Novena booklet or on www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)

Hannah had endured years of cruel abuse by her husband’s second wife, a woman with many children; Hannah had none. Her grief at her childlessness was profound and she prayed aloud to God to fulfil her hopes and transform her life. Only when we keep her pain in mind can we fully understand that her offering of her miracle son was a supreme sacrifice. For an offering carries no validity if it doesn’t come at a cost.

In our image today we glimpse both pain and determination – here stands Hannah with her son in front of her, about to step over the threshold of the Temple, and start a new life apart from her. Hannah cannot see his expression – he is already turning from her. This is the stance of all parenthood – a gentle pressure on the child’s shoulders, edging him or her into a future which the parent may not be a part of. Emotions of thankfulness as well as dread, pride and humility, joy and sorrow all compete within her heart. She is a woman on the margins, returning to the shadows, trusting that her offering serves the common good.

‘It is not by strength that one prevails’ (1 Sam. 2.9), she sings in her Magnificat. But in this moment she is in fact supremely strong. Her life has been changed for ever, but not in a way she had prayed for; Samuel’s life had changed forever by her gift; and Samuel was to change the future of a nation. None of this was in Hannah’s plan, but she was motivated by a conviction that what belongs to us comes from God and that we cannot give half measures back to the Lord.

Can we show similar trust, that though we cannot see or control the future, our offerings – even if not as dramatic as Hannah’s was, will be used by God to transform the world into the kingdom? Let us each ask in prayer what God is calling us to give this week. We could do well to use the hymn by Frances Havergal: ‘Take my life, and let it be/ consecrated, Lord to thee’, as our prayer for today. And if nothing personal is on your heart, remember that this is Christian Aid week, and like Hannah, let us double our giving.

As time allows, share your insights with one another.

A Song of David:

**Splendour and majesty are yours, O God;
you are exalted as head over all.**

- 1 Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever, ♦
for yours is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.
- 2 Everything in heaven and on earth is yours; ♦
yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head over all.
- 3 Riches and honour come from you ♦
and you rule over all.
- 4 In your hand are power and might; ♦
yours it is to give power and strength to all.
- 5 And now we give you thanks, our God, ♦
and praise your glorious name.
- 6 For all things come from you, ♦
and of your own have we given you.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be forever. Amen.**

**Splendour and majesty are yours, O God;
you are exalted as head over all.**