



# THIS IS YOUR SPACE TO STAND UP

## REFLECTION POINTS 18 OCTOBER 2020

### PRAYER OF PRAISE - PARAPHRASE OF LUKE 1: 46-55 FROM JONNY BAKER

“ My soul reaches out to God.  
My Spirit rejoices in my Saviour  
God sees that the humble heart is open  
And implants his vision into it.  
We are wombs of the Divine  
Through giving birth to vision all generations can be  
blessed.

Those who revere God will find her merciful  
But the proud will see only judgments.

Those who empty themselves of selfishness will be  
lifted up to God,  
But those who cling to power cannot be lifted.

Those who are satiated have no room to receive  
But the hungry will be filled with good things.

### BIBLE READING - 1 SAMUEL 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

“ <sup>9</sup>After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord.<sup>[a]</sup> Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. <sup>10</sup>She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. <sup>11</sup>She made this vow: “O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite<sup>[b]</sup> until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants,<sup>[c]</sup> and no razor shall touch his head.”

<sup>19</sup>They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. <sup>20</sup>In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I have asked him of the Lord.”

**2** Hannah prayed and said,  
“My heart exults in the Lord;  
my strength is exalted in my God.<sup>[a]</sup>

My mouth derides my enemies,  
because I rejoice in my<sup>[b]</sup> victory.

<sup>2</sup>“There is no Holy One like the Lord,  
no one besides you;  
there is no Rock like our God.

<sup>3</sup>Talk no more so very proudly,  
let not arrogance come from your mouth;  
for the Lord is a God of knowledge,  
and by him actions are weighed.

<sup>4</sup>The bows of the mighty are broken,  
but the feeble gird on strength.

<sup>5</sup>Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,

but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.  
The barren has borne seven,  
but she who has many children is forlorn.

<sup>6</sup>The Lord kills and brings to life;  
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord makes poor and makes rich;  
he brings low, he also exalts.

<sup>8</sup>He raises up the poor from the dust;  
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,  
to make them sit with princes  
and inherit a seat of honor.<sup>[c]</sup>

For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,  
and on them he has set the world.

<sup>9</sup>“He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,

but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;  
for not by might does one prevail.  
<sup>10</sup>The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered;  
the Most High<sup>[d]</sup> will thunder in heaven.  
The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;  
he will give strength to his king,  
and exalt the power of his anointed.”  
These are words of faith  
Thanks be to God

## REFLECTION

If faith is a relationship with God, then it needs  
nurturing and nourishing.  
It will form over time and with work and commitment  
– faith doesn’t just happen.  
How do you ensure faith is kept in focus rather than  
blurry and fuzzy round the edges?  
How do you nourish faith?

We are all threads in a web, parts of the body of  
Christ.  
If you take faith formation seriously for yourself, it  
will affect the whole because we are part of a larger  
community of faith.  
Our faith is communal, not individual – how do you  
live this out?

The Basis of Union calls us a pilgrim people.  
How do you take this seriously?

Too challenging this week? Good!  
This is a marathon and not a sprint, but because we  
are a community of faith, we look out for each other  
and equip each other. Our need is mutual and equal.  
What is your 3 point action plan?

Put on your glasses and keep up to date with your

prescription  
Nourish your faith or it won’t thrive  
Don’t eat alone – one day we will eat together once  
again.

God of the story,  
You are in and out of the stories we read  
Calling us into them  
And calling us out of them.  
Give us courage to listen to our own curiosities  
As we read old stories.  
Dare us to ask the questions  
Hidden in the heart of the text.  
Lead us to mind – with heart and mind  
And desire and desperation –  
The many meanings  
In the one story.  
Because this is where we find you  
And where you  
Find us.  
Amen  
(Corrymeela Community)