



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, MIDLAND, ON

Sunday, November 14, 2021

Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Music Director: Victoria Warwick

Readers: Sandra Flint, Colin Whiteside

Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Rick Dell, Catherine Ladouceur, Nora Leis, Bruce Wilcox

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED

OPENING HYMN: VU#374 "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" (verse 1) sung by Bothell High School Combined Choirs.

Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

OPENING PRAYER: Read by Colin Whiteside

Like Hannah in our scripture reading today, O God, we enter into worship. We come to pray and to open our hearts and lives to you. You know our deepest longings, our struggles and our laughter too. May we too come and find a quiet centre as we seek to be still and receptive to you and all that is sacred. Amen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: As we light this Christ candle, may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

SUNG RESPONSE: "I Am the Light of the World", VU# 87,
musicians from Golden Ears United Church

**"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Samuel 1:4-20 by Colin Whiteside

On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house

of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore, Hannah wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"



After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. 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 until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore, Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

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

SERMON:

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

SOLO: "A Celtic Prayer" sung by Sheila Payne

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER: by Carolyn Hendry, read by Sandra Flint

Mother-father God, Infinite Creator, all that is, in this place and within our hearts and minds we go to the still small voice within. We feel peaceful and connected to the Earth, to the Sky and to all that surrounds us. We feel each breath in this Sacred Space as we go within. Our thoughts and hearts are connected with each other.

May we take the time to still our thoughts and come before you. To be still and know that you are God. Help us to take this time to listen and hear with inner ears what is offered by thought and feeling. Like Hannah, help us to pause, to take the time to sort out what is our own heart and mind? Holy one, you know our innermost thoughts, our joys, our concerns, our gratitude and our anxious thoughts. You know that for which we long both in our personal lives and for our world.

Creator hear our prayers for each other, our community, our Country, the World. Bless those who suffer. Bless them with love. Bless them who grieve. May they feel supported and at peace. Bless those who help others. Bless those who minister, lead, and offer support to others here in our community and around the world. Bless the children of this world. Keep them

safe and protected. Bless us as we develop, grow and gain understanding.
Amen, Shalom, Peace, Migwetch

Now let us pray the prayer Jesus taught

Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and
forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory.
Now and forever, Amen

CLOSING HYMN: "In the Quiet Curve of Evening" sung by Winfield United Church Musicians

1. In the quiet curve of evening, in the sinking of the days,
in the silky void of darkness, you are there.
In the lapses of my breathing, in the space between my ways,
in the crater carved by sadness, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.
2. In the rests between the phrases, in the cracks between the stars,
in the gaps between the meaning, you are there.
In the melting down of endings, in the cooling of the sun,
in the solstice of the winter, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.
3. In the mystery of my hungers, in the silence of my rooms,
in the cloud of my unknowing, you are there.
In the empty cave of grieving, in the desert of my dreams,
in the tunnel of my sorrow, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: "Go in Love" sung by Sheila Payne

Go in love. Have no fear.
God will guide you. God is always near.
Go in love. Take God's hand.
God will hear you and will understand.
May God's light forever shine upon you.
May God's peace be always in your heart.
Go in love. Face each day.
God will lead you and will show the way.
Go in love and live in faith. Amen

POSTLUDE