

**St Peter's Anglican Church, Bundoora**

**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost / Day of Parish Annual Meeting**

**Sunday 17/11/2024**

**Reading 1 Sam 1:4-20 / Song of Hannah / Heb 10:11-25 / Mark 13:1-11**

(Readings are from New Revised Standard Version)

**Sermon Theme: *Be encouraged.***

By Rev'd Stephen Monsieigneur

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## **1 Sam 1:4-20**

<sup>4</sup> On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; <sup>5</sup> but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. <sup>6</sup> Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. <sup>7</sup> So it went on year after 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. <sup>8</sup> 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?' <sup>9</sup> 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. <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 until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head.' <sup>12</sup> As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. <sup>13</sup> Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. <sup>14</sup> So Eli said to her, 'How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine.' <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time.' <sup>17</sup> Then Eli answered, 'Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him.' <sup>18</sup> And she said, 'Let your servant find favour in your sight.' Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer. <sup>19</sup> 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. <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.'

## **Song of Hannah**

My heart exults in the Lord:  
my strength is exalted in my God.

My mouth derides my enemies:  
because I rejoice in your salvation.

There is no Holy One like you, O Lord:  
nor any Rock like you, our God.

For you are a God of knowledge:  
and by you our actions are weighed.

The bows of the mighty are broken:  
but the feeble gird on strength.

Those who were full now search for bread:  
but those who were hungry are well fed.

The barren woman has borne sevenfold:  
but she who has many children is forlorn.

Both the poor and the rich are of your making:  
you bring low and you also exalt.

You raise up the poor from the dust:  
and lift the needy from the ash heap.

You make them sit with the rulers:  
and inherit a place of honour.

For the pillars of the earth are yours:  
and on them you have set the world.

### **Heb 10:11-25**

<sup>11</sup> And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins.

<sup>12</sup> But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, 'he sat down at the right hand of God',

<sup>13</sup> and since then has been waiting 'until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.'

<sup>14</sup> For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus,

<sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh),

<sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

<sup>22</sup> let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,

<sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

## Mark 13:1-11

<sup>1</sup> As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' <sup>2</sup> Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.' <sup>3</sup> When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup> 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup> Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup> When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs. <sup>9</sup> 'As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. <sup>10</sup> And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. <sup>11</sup> When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

## SERMON

There is a great message of encouragement to be taken from today's scripture readings. God's love for Hannah and gift of a prayer answered and the greatest example of love, Jesus, who willingly gave his life that all of our sin could be forgiven, and we could again be reunited in God's presence.

Today is the last ordinary day of the church year, next week we celebrate our realisation and understanding of Jesus not just as our teacher but our King. Today is also the day of our parish annual meeting. We are at a milestone, a turning point and we must ask ourselves,

"...how [do we] provoke one another to love and good deeds, to meet together, ..... [to] encouraging one another,"

Being the church means being intentional. Intentional in service and mission, in loving, not just those who are easy to love but especially those who are not. Expressing and sharing this kind of love does not come easy for many. It takes confidence which is gained only through knowing and trusting Jesus. How we share the love of our relationship with Jesus is seen in all that we do and our commitment to it. Whether we serve in the sanctuary, clean the vessels and linen, serve morning tea or pass the plate, we are serving God's mission and we should be willing to give it our best effort.

International relationships are in a bad way between so many nations at the moment. We have nations invading other nations, examples of power being used without authority. It is easy for us to begin feeling that this is just the way it is. We can experience a sense of hopelessness and become complacent. We can if not careful lose faith. This was the risk for Hannah, and so many through scripture. But with Hannah we see faith maintained. Hannah while unhappy with the situation did not let her sadness eat at her faith that for her God had a purpose.

When we are a beacon of the love God has for us others will see and be drawn. Let us go as Hannah did in trusting God, and let us be a light shining to the world. Amen.