

Sunday 22nd March 2020

Read 1 Samuel 1

Mothering Sunday 2020. This will be one to remember, or maybe one to forget? Usually we would have had a church full of people and some of us would want to celebrate, others find it hard and sad. We would give out daffodils and people would be going to restaurants and pubs and gathering as extended family. But not this year. Things are so different for us right now. As the Coronavirus crisis and all the measures that come with it dig deeper into how we live and worship we are having to let go of many things we hold dear, things we have really been looking forward to. In 1 Samuel 1, we read how Hannah had yearned for a child and yet when her prayers were answered and she bears a son, Samuel, she gives him up to God. She honours what she said she would do and she takes him to be an apprentice at the temple, set apart for serving God. What a big thing that must have been! Hannah knew sadness and struggle in her life, before and after conceiving and bearing Samuel, her precious son. But she knew that she must do the right thing for the common good and for the purposes of God. Hard though it is for us, we must continue to experience separation, as Hannah did from Samuel, we must be obedient to this, but at the same be obedient to God.

*Think and pray as we give thanks for those who parent now and who have cared for us.
Think about the sacrifices that so many mothers have to make.*

And some prayers about the coronavirus.

Lord Jesus Christ, I ask You to protect us from the spread of the coronavirus. You are powerful and merciful. We pray for all who are vulnerable and scared.

Jehovah Shalom, Lord of Peace, I remember those currently in isolation, to know Your presence in isolation, Your peace in turmoil and Your patience in waiting.

Prince of Peace, You are powerful and merciful:

... may your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need. Help us, God our Saviour, for the glory of your name. (Psalm 79:8–9)

God of all wisdom. We pray for our leaders, for the WHO, for scientists, for all those on the frontline against Covid-19.

He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us. (2 Corinthians 1:10)