

# Daily Prayer

## *Advent FERIA*

*Wednesday, December 22, 2021*

*We enter into a time of quiet. We offer to God our selves and in the silence know that God embraces us as God's very own. We offer our hopes and our concerns through our prayers and in the silence listen for God. Today we hold in our prayers the ordinary moments in life—the trials and the joys.*

*We begin by saying*

Blessed are those who believe,  
for what God has promised will be fulfilled

## **The First Reading**

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.'

The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.' Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the LORD establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the

child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and 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.

*1 Samuel 1. 19-28*

## **The Psalm**

Alleluia.

Give praise, you servants of the Lord, ♦  
O praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, ♦  
from this time forth and for evermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting ♦  
let the name of the Lord be praised.

The Lord is high above all nations ♦  
and his glory above the heavens.

Who is like the Lord our God,  
that has his throne so high, ♦  
yet humbles himself to behold  
the things of heaven and earth?

He raises the poor from the dust ♦  
and lifts the needy from the ashes,

To set them with princes, ♦  
with the princes of his people.

He gives the barren woman a place in the house ♦  
and makes her a joyful mother of children.

Alleluia.

*Psalm 113*

## **The Gospel Reading**

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

And Mary remained with her for about three months and then  
returned to her home.

*Luke 1.46-56*

*We continue with the reflection that follows. In silence, we ask what the reading has to say to us today. Is there something in the reflection that draws us more deeply into the reading? What does God have to say to us? What do we have to ask God?*

# The Reflection

*Susan Haig*

## *Prophets Like Mary – A Reflection on the Magnificat*

One says the word “prophet” and usually a middle-aged or old man with a bearded face comes to mind. Yet all around us we see and hear young girls raising their voices to interpret our present times, with both fierce critique and enlivening hope. Young girls like Amanda Gorman, Malala Yousafzai, and Greta Thunberg. Young girls with as much to say as John the Baptizer, Jeremiah, Amos and many, many others. But, when we stop to think about it, these are young girls who do not so much break the mould, but speak out in the time-honoured Biblical tradition of women like Hannah of Ephraim and Mary of Nazareth.

Mary is a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph when the angel comes calling. In other words she is but a young girl of 13 or 14. So her tender age makes her “yes” to God and God’s plan for the world all the more amazing. But it also explains the fact that, as soon as the archangel leaves, she departs with haste for the soothing arms of her cousin Elizabeth. For the startling announcement she had just received must have swept over her like a tsunami of mixed emotions.

Thankfully, what Mary seeks and needs from Elizabeth she receives in spades: safety, affirmation, empathy, and companionship. She needs another person to recognize, nurture, and celebrate the work of God in her life. She needs to belong to a community of people – even if it’s a community of just one other – which will enfold and uphold her as she undertakes the difficult mission God has entrusted to her.

The essence of their conversation is Elizabeth’s blessing of Mary and the unborn child in her womb. To all of Mary’s fears and

doubts, that maelstrom of mixed emotions, Elizabeth speaks a benediction. A benediction that recognizes that Mary's blessedness lies in her ability to trust God no matter what life throws at her, no matter what complicated mixture of feelings she experiences. And then, this young girl finds her prophetic voice.

Having found safety, recognition and blessing in Elizabeth's embrace, Mary begins to sing one of the most famous and beloved songs in all of Christendom. The Magnificat. She sings a song that is at once radical and hope-filled, a song saturated with promise for the world's disenfranchised, ashamed, and broken-hearted. She sings a song that foretells a new reality in which the sinful, unjust status quo is decisively reversed. A song that promises a world so revolutionized and turned on its head that only the child in her womb can possibly birth it into being.

But here's the rub. Mary's song is so subversive and passionate that the powers of Empire have tried to silence it. The Magnificat was banned in churches when the British ruled India. It was banned during the Dirty War in Argentina after the mothers of disappeared children were so bold as to put its words onto posters plastered all over Buenos Aires.

But it is not banned today on the streets and in the churches of Toronto, and even if it were, it would still dare us to raise our voices with Mary's and all the young girl prophets of our times, in resistance and hope. Like these young prophets, and the prophets of every age, gender, time and place, we are invited to say yes to God. Yes! - to the coming Reign of Justice and Peace.

*When the time is right, we conclude our time of silence with the canticle*

## The Canticle ~ A Song of Deliverance

*All the earth, shout and sing for joy,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One.*

'Behold, God is my salvation; ♦

I will trust and will not be afraid;

'For the Lord God is my strength and my song, ♦

and has become my salvation.'

With joy you will draw water ♦

from the wells of salvation.

On that day you will say, ♦

'Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name;

'Make known his deeds among the nations, ♦

proclaim that his name is exalted.

'Sing God's praises, who has triumphed gloriously; ♦

let this be known in all the world.

'Shout and sing for joy, you that dwell in Zion, ♦

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.'

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now

and shall be for ever. Amen.

*All the earth, shout and sing for joy,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One.*

*Isaiah 12.2-6*

*We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God (The Intercessions)  
and continue with the concluding collect, the Lord's prayer and the closing sentences.*

## The Intercessions

Watchful at all times,  
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence  
before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy, saying  
Show us your mercy

**And grant us your salvation.**

That God may establish among the nations  
his sceptre of righteousness,

*Silence is kept*

Show us your mercy

**And grant us your salvation.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures  
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,

*Silence is kept*

Show us your mercy

**And grant us your salvation.**

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick  
and raise up all who have fallen,

*Silence is kept*

Show us your mercy

**And grant us your salvation.**

That the light of God's coming may dawn  
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,

*Silence is kept*

Show us your mercy

**And grant us your salvation.**

That, with all the saints in light,  
we may shine forth as lights for the world,

*Silence is kept*

Show us your mercy

**And grant us your salvation.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray  
to the mercy and protection of maker and redeemer:

*Silence is kept*

Show us your mercy

**And grant us your salvation.**

*Our prayers conclude*

God of joy,

you rejoice in the unity of the Son and the Spirit,  
and you take delight in all you have made.

In this Advent season teach us to share in your joy,  
that in times of sorrow, as in times of happiness,  
we may come to know the reassurances of your promise  
and the fulfilment found in coming to be fully alive,  
radiant with your glory and charges with your hope,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*[let us pray as our Saviour taught us,]*

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.

Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.



For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen

*We conclude*

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon us,  
scatter the darkness from before our path  
and make us ready to meet him when he comes in glory.  
Amen.

Credits:

Scripture quotations: The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in the USA. Used by permission. All Rights Reserved.

The Psalm: Common Worship: Psalter © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

The Canticle: Common Worship: Canticles © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

The Intercessions: Common Worship: Times and Seasons—Advent (adapted) © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

The Collect: *The Canterbury Book of New Parish Prayers* © 2021, M.J. Kramer

The Concluding Sentence: Common Worship: Advent. © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

The reflection: *The Rev'd Susan Haig*

# Church of the Redeemer

162 Bloor Street West Toronto, ON M5S 1M4

416.922.4948

[office@theredeemer.ca](mailto:office@theredeemer.ca)

[www.TheRedeemer.ca](http://www.TheRedeemer.ca)

Twitter: @theRedeemerTO

Facebook: theRedeemerTO

Instagram: theRedeemerTO