

taught us about your power. The power dreamed of by Hannah – power at the service of others, raising up the powerless, strengthening the weak, healing the sick, replacing despair with hope, bringing life where there was death. We praise and adore you, O God, for these wonderful signs of your love. May this time of worship and the service of our lives be a worthy response to these gifts. This we pray in Jesus' name and for his sake. **Amen**

TIS 420: Holy Spirit, go before us,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION - *spoken by two voices*

God of beginnings and endings –
we give thanks for your presence with us
on our Pentecost journey of half a year –
when our visible landscapes have been transformed
from the grey-green of winter to the wattle-gold of spring.
What about our personal landscapes –
have we allowed them to be transformed?
What have we seen and what have we heard?
What has been sown in our hearts?

We've seen life restored –
by Jesus' compassion, and Jairus' faith,
a frail woman's touch and a blind man's persistence.
We've seen crowds being fed, children blessed,
and people taught about love, service and death.

We've heard Paul's words of faith
about strength in our weakness and receiving God's grace
and the words of James resound in our ears:
"Faith without works is dead".

And Jesus, high priest and servant of all,
gave us only two commandments - love God and love neighbour.
He repeated the cost of discipleship where the first becomes last
and the last becomes first.

We confess that all too often, our eyes get distracted
and our ears tune out, our hearts become set in familiar ways –
our journeys of faith become routine and all too predictable.

We don't expect to be transformed.

God of endings and new beginnings, remind us
that, as we worship you together, we are transformed.

As we lift up our hearts to you, we are lifted beyond ourselves
to see life from your perspective. As we near the end
of this part of our journey, fill us anew with a sense of
expectancy and joy, as we recall that we are accepted and loved,
forgiven and renewed, united and reconciled in the name of Jesus,
our risen Lord and Saviour, in whose name we pray. **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

We read in Hebrews that "when Christ had offered for all time
a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,
andby a single offering, he has perfected for all time
those who are sanctified." The good news is this, that in and through
Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

OLD TESTAMENT: 1 Samuel 1: 4-20;

CANTICLE OF HANNAH

Refrain:

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

There is none holy like the Lord:
there is none beside you, no rock like our God.
For you O Lord 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.
You Lord make poor and make rich:
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 princes:
And inherit a seat of honour.

For yours, O Lord, are the pillars of the earth:
And on them you have set the world.