

Sunday 29 December

Morning Service

God's gracious word by His prophet

1 Samuel 3:1-21

Mr Kerr Sewell

**Let earth and heaven combine,
angels and men agree,
to praise in songs divine,
the incarnate Deity,
our God contracted to a span,
incomprehensibly made man.**

**He laid His glory by,
He wrapped Him in our clay;
unmarked by human eye,
the latent Godhead lay;
infant of days He here became,
and bore the mild Immanuel's Name.**

**Unsearchable the love
that hath the Saviour brought;
the grace is far above
or man or angel's thought:
suffice for us that God, we know,
our God, is manifest below.**

**He deigns in flesh to appear,
widest extremes to join;
to bring our vileness near,
and make us all divine:
and we the life of God shall know,
for God is manifest below.**

**Made perfect by His love,
and sanctified by grace,
we shall from earth remove,
and see His glorious face:
then shall His love be fully showed,
and man shall then be lost in God.**

Charles Wesley, 1707-88

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Prayer

1 Samuel 3:1-21

Now the young man Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

1 Samuel 3:1-21

² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

1 Samuel 3:1-21

4 Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, “Here I am!” **5** and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down.

1 Samuel 3:1-21

6 And the LORD called again, “Samuel!” and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.”

1 Samuel 3:1-21

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me."

1 Samuel 3:1-21

Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the young man. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

1 Samuel 3:1-21

**¹⁰ And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!”
And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant hears.”**

1 Samuel 3:1-21

¹¹ Then the LORD said to Samuel, “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. ¹² On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.

1 Samuel 3:1-21

13 And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.

1 Samuel 3:1-21

¹⁴ Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering for ever.”

¹⁵ Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.

1 Samuel 3:1-21

¹⁶ But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹⁷ And Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.”

1 Samuel 3:1-21

18 So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, “It is the LORD. Let him do what seems good to him.”

19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

1 Samuel 3:1-21

²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the LORD.

²¹ And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

Children's Talk

**Teach me to trust You, Lord Jesus,
help me to draw close to You.
Let me be filled with Your joy and delight,
Lord, may I know more of You.**

**Teach me to pray to You, Jesus,
please give me the right words to say.
Help me to pray for my friends at school,
so they may get to know You.**

**Teach me to love You, Lord Jesus,
show me the things I must do.
Help me to get to that place, O Lord,
where I can be close to You.**

Iain Craig

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Prayer

**Thou didst leave Thy throne
and Thy kingly crown
when Thou camest to earth for me,
but in Bethlehem's home
was there found no room
for Thy holy nativity;
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for Thee.**

**Heaven's arches rang
when the angels sang,
proclaiming Thy royal decree;
but of lowly birth
cam'st Thou, Lord, on earth,
and in great humility:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for Thee.**

**The foxes found rest,
and the bird its nest,
in the shade of the forest tree;
but Thy couch was the sod,
O Thou Son of God,
in the deserts of Galilee:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for Thee.**

**Thou camest, O Lord,
with the living word
that should set Thy people free;
but, with mocking scorn,
and with crown of thorn,
they bore Thee to Calvary:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
Thy Cross is my only plea.**

**When heaven's arches ring,
and her choirs shall sing,
at Thy coming to victory,
let Thy voice call me home,
saying, 'Yet there is room,
there is room at My side for thee!'
and my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,
when Thou comest and callest for me.**

Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliott, 1836-97

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Prayer

God's gracious word by His prophet
1 Samuel 3:1-21

Prayer

**O what a mystery I see,
what marvellous design,
that God should come as one of us,
a Son in David's line.**

**Flesh of our flesh, of woman born,
our humanness He owns;
and for a world of wickedness
His guiltless blood atones.**

**This perfect Man, incarnate God,
by selfless sacrifice
destroys our sinful history,
all fallen Adam's curse.**

**In Him the curse to blessing turns,
my barren spirit flowers,
as o'er the shattered power of sin
the cross of Jesus towers.**

women

**By faith a child of His I stand,
an heir in David's line,
royal descendant by His blood
destined by love's design.**

men

Fathers of faith, my fathers now!

because in Christ I am,

all

and all God's promises in Him

to me are "Yes, Amen"!

**No more then as a child of earth
must I my lifetime spend –
His history, His destiny
are mine to apprehend.
Oh what a Saviour, what a Lord,
my Master, Brother, Friend!
What miracle has joined me to
this life that never ends!**

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**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all.
Amen.**

Evening Service

Do not despair; serve the Lord faithfully

1 Samuel 12:1-25

Mr Kerr Sewell

**Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
nought be all else to me,
save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought
in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom,
be Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee
and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father
and I Thy true heir:
Thou in me dwelling
and I in Thy care.**

**Be Thou my breastplate,
my sword for the fight;
be Thou my armour
and be Thou my might:
Thou my soul's shelter
and Thou my high tower;
raise Thou me heav'nward,
O Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not,
nor all the world's praise;
Thou mine inheritance
through all my days;
Thou, and Thou only,
the first in my heart,
High King of heaven,
my treasure Thou art!**

**High King of heaven,
when battle is done,
grant heaven's joys to me,
O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
still be my vision,
O ruler of all.**

Ancient Irish, tr. Mary Byrne

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Prayer

1 Samuel 12:1-25

And Samuel said to all Israel, “Behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made a king over you. ² And now, behold, the king walks before you, and I am old and grey; and behold, my sons are with you.

1 Samuel 12:1-25

**I have walked before
you from my youth until
this day. ³ Here I am;
testify against me before
the LORD and before his
anointed. Whose ox have
I taken? Or whose
donkey have I taken? Or
whom have I defrauded?
Whom have I oppressed?**

1 Samuel 12:1-25

**Or from whose hand
have I taken a bribe to
blind my eyes with it?
Testify against me and I
will restore it to you.”**

**⁴ They said, “You have
not defrauded us or
oppressed us or taken
anything from any man's
hand.”**

1 Samuel 12:1-25

**5 And he said to them,
“The LORD is witness
against you, and his
anointed is witness this
day, that you have not
found anything in my
hand.” And they said,
“He is witness.”**

1 Samuel 12:1-25

6 And Samuel said to the people, “The LORD is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt.

1 Samuel 12:1-25

**⁷ Now therefore stand still
that I may plead with you
before the LORD
concerning all the
righteous deeds of the
LORD that he performed
for you and for your
fathers.**

1 Samuel 12:1-25

8 When Jacob went into Egypt, and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your fathers cried out to the LORD and the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place.

1 Samuel 12:1-25

9 But they forgot the LORD their God. And he sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab. And they fought against them.

1 Samuel 12:1-25

¹⁰ And they cried out to the LORD and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. But now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, that we may serve you.'

1 Samuel 12:1-25

¹¹ And the LORD sent Jerubbaal and Barak and Jephthah and Samuel and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and you lived in safety.

1 Samuel 12:1-25

¹² And when you saw that Nahash the king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us', when the LORD your God was your king.

1 Samuel 12:1-25

¹³ And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the LORD has set a king over you.

1 Samuel 12:1-25

¹⁴ If you will fear the LORD and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God, it will be well.

1 Samuel 12:1-25

15 But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you and your king.

1 Samuel 12:1-25

¹⁷ Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the LORD, that he may send thunder and rain. And you shall know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking for yourselves a king.”

1 Samuel 12:1-25

¹⁸ So Samuel called upon the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.

1 Samuel 12:1-25

19 And all the people said to Samuel, “Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king.”

1 Samuel 12:1-25

²⁰ And Samuel said to the people, “Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.

1 Samuel 12:1-25

²¹ And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. ²² For the LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself.

1 Samuel 12:1-25

²³ Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way.

1 Samuel 12:1-25

24 Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. 25 But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”

**Lord, You were rich beyond all splendour,
yet, for love's sake, became so poor;
leaving Your throne in glad surrender,
sapphire paved courts for stable floor:
Lord, You were rich beyond all splendour,
yet, for love's sake, became so poor.**

**You are our God beyond all praising,
yet, for love's sake, became a man
stooping so low, but sinners raising
heavenwards, by Your eternal plan:
You are our God beyond all praising,
yet for love's sake, became a man.**

**Lord, You are love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship You;
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
make us and keep us pure and true:
Lord You are love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship You.**

F. Houghton 1894-1972

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Prayer

Do not despair; serve the Lord faithfully

1 Samuel 12:1-25

Prayer

**Who is He, in yonder stall,
at whose feet the shepherds fall?
'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!
'Tis the Lord, the King of Glory!
At His feet we humbly fall;
crown Him, crown Him Lord of all.**

**Who is He, in deep distress,
fasting in the wilderness?
'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!
'Tis the Lord, the King of Glory!
At His feet we humbly fall;
crown Him, crown Him Lord of all.**

**Who is He that stands and weeps
at the grave where Lazarus sleeps?**

'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!

'Tis the Lord, the King of Glory!

**At His feet we humbly fall;
crown Him, crown Him Lord of all.**

**Who is He, in Calvary's throes,
asks for blessings on His foes?
'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!
'Tis the Lord, the King of Glory!
At His feet we humbly fall;
crown Him, crown Him Lord of all.**

**Who is He that from the grave
comes to heal and help and save?**

'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!

'Tis the Lord, the King of Glory!

**At His feet we humbly fall;
crown Him, crown Him Lord of all.**

**Who is He that from His throne
rules the world of light alone?
'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!
'Tis the Lord, the King of Glory!
At His feet we humbly fall;
crown Him, crown Him Lord of all.**

Benjamin Russell Hanby, 1833-67

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**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all.
Amen.**