

Service Overview

Speaker: Cathy

Sermon Series: History Makers

Message: History Makers - Hannah

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 1:1-20

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Service Welcome *Speaker: Reuben*

Good morning everyone. Happy Mother's Day! I'm just going to prepare our hearts for worship this morning.

Lord, we just thank you for your goodness. We thank you for your faithfulness. And we just celebrate who you are and who you've made us to be in your image. We just thank you for your mercy, your kindness, and your glory. So, Lord, would you shape us as we fix our eyes on you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Worship Singing

Song: Unto Your Name by Ben Smith, Pat Barrett

Song: Cornerstone by Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, William Batchelder Bradbury

Song: God Is So Good (You Are Worthy) by Pat Barrett

Kids Spot *Speaker: Mireille*

Good morning and welcome to church. To the mums in the room, happy Mother's Day. I hope you have been celebrated already, and had celebrations in your family of love and joy. Mums are a good thing. God is good and in giving us mums. And we acknowledge that mums are so, so good. They carry us. They birth us, and then they raise us. And that is no mean feat. It is a big, big job.

I think many of you would agree with me when I say that moms are like the engine that just keeps the house running. She knows the schedule. She knows where that random thing is that you can't find. She picks up the presents for the birthday party. She gets you where you need to go. You're clean and you're fed. She's got eyes in the back of her head. She knows what's coming next. Mums are multitaskers, and they are all doers. And they carry on such a big load because they love us, and they give and they give. This morning, we were wondering, 'how can we help mums?' This morning, we thought we would share some simple little life hacks, little things that everyone can do around the house.

--- Three different little demonstrators show how to replace a bin liner, how to squeeze a lemon without cutting it, how to refresh a cut rose, and how to tell right and left shoes apart ---

Father God, we thank you for mothers. Thank you that they love us no matter what, that they strive for us to give us what we need, and even more. Thank you that they delight in us and cheer us on and feed us and guide us and say the hard things to us that no one else is brave enough to say. Thank you for their kindness and care and their warm hugs, for how they plan, how they dream, and how they do their very best for as much as they can, so that we can enjoy and be the best that we can be. God, you made our mums wise, strong and beautiful. Please help us to love them back in the ways that they love us. Amen.

Introduction, Announcements & Upcoming Events *Speaker: Stephen Bates*

Oh, good morning everyone. Welcome to Parramatta Baptist Church, and welcome also those who are watching online. It's really lovely to have all of you here, participating and joining in worship together. As I said, a very happy Mother's Day to all the mums in the room and watching as well.

We have a number of things happening in the life of our church. So the first one is actually this Saturday (May 18).

Bec*: Next Saturday, we are going to be inviting all women and girls to come and join us for a wonderful morning tea. We are going to hear from one of our youth girls, Claire*, along with a good friend of hers from Constitution Hill. They were part of ABC's 'Old People's Home for Teenagers', and they're going to share with us what it was like to connect with people of a new generation, but differently, and some of the benefits that they've reaped from that.

Kathy's then going to share some more about that, and we'll have some opportunities to connect over some games, have some conversations and just see how we can also do that within our lives. We would absolutely love for all women and girls to come along. We do need you to register Sunday May 12 please, so we can cater for you. If you've got any questions, come speak to someone at the table with the beautiful flowers. Thank you.

Stephen: Thanks, Bec. The other thing is coming up, if you are new to the life of the church, is that every 4-6 weeks we have a newcomers afternoon tea. And our next one is happening in two weeks' time on the 26th of May. If you are new or newish to the life of the church would like to meet others who are new and meet those of us in the church who've been here for a little bit longer, as well as find out more about who we are as a church, then you're very, very welcome to come along to this afternoon. It runs from 2:30 to 4:00 PM. Kids and young people are very welcome to come along as well. Speak to Reuben, or Kathy if you can't find him, or note it down on the cards provided if you'd like to come along.

The other thing that's coming up in a few weeks after that is our worship evening. They happen once a term and are an opportunity create a spacious place of worship and prayer, of listening to God, of declaring his greatness and his goodness. It happens on a Wednesday night from 7:30 to until it finishes, generally around 9:00-9:30 PM. You'd be very welcome to just join us if you're part of a small group, very welcome for small groups to come along and to build that into the rhythm of your small group as well. But they're just beautiful nights to join together in worship and praise.

The other thing that's coming up in a little bit longer is our kids holiday program. That begins in July and registrations will open in the next week or two. But at the moment, this is a call out for volunteers. So we would generally have around about 120-140 children who come along to our kids holiday program. And so that requires a lot of assistance in terms of group leaders, but also people

to assist in some of the practicalities around the crafts, around the morning tea that's given on the cafe that we run. There's just a number of things, and so generally we have around, I think, close to about 100 people involved as volunteers over the course of that week as well. So if you're interested in volunteering, there is a QR code out somewhere in the foyer that you can scan, or speak with Mireille or Ben. That would be fantastic.

Prayer *Speaker: Stephen Bates*

Let me just pray once again, before we hear from God's word. I'll introduce Cathy Casey to you as well.

Father, we do thank you for this day. We thank you for the opportunity that we have to come and to worship you. We thank you for the encouragement that comes also from being with one another. We thank you for the way in which we have this beautiful opportunity to speak words of life and strength into one another, but also to hear in the songs that we sing, in the scriptures that are read, truth and life spoken over us as well.

Father, we pray for the things that we've spoken about, for this opportunity on Saturday, for women of all ages to come together to get to know one another better, to hear from one another. And, Lord, there's just this beautiful relational description in scripture that we see, which speaks of generations speaking to generations.

And, so, father, I pray that for those of us who are older, that we would be intentionally speaking into the lives of younger people. And, father, for those who are younger, to be giving them strength and for them to speak also into the lives of those are older. Lord, we thank you, for the generations that we have who gather in this church in worship every Sunday.

May we never just lock ourselves into those who are just like us, but may we reach beyond differences in ages, differences in ethnicity, differences in whatever it may be, understanding that we are all one in Christ Jesus. So, father, as we continue in worship and in hearing your word, Lord, we ask your blessing upon this. May your Holy Spirit continue to encourage and strengthen and speak to us. Whisper to us throughout this morning as we gather for your glory. Lord, we ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

Bible Reading: 1 Samuel 1:1-20 (NIV)

There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite[a] from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.

3 Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord. 4 Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb. 6 Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. 7 This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. 8 Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"

9 Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord's house. 10 In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. 11 And she made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

12 As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. 13 Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk 14 and said to her, "How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine."

15 "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. 16 Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." 17 Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him."

18 She said, "May your servant find favor in your eyes." Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

19 Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the Lord and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. 20 So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel,[b] saying, "Because I asked the Lord for him."

Sermon: History Makers - Hannah *Speaker: Cathy*

So, on this Mother's Day morning, I would just like to give a shout out to all the mothers in the room and to all of our mothers who may be with us now. I read an article in The Sun that said mothers of children aged 5 to 12 spend on average 98 hours a week caring for that child and the household. So that's the equivalent of two and a half full time jobs. I thought, yeah, sometimes it feels like that.

My children are now young adults, so there's certainly not that same kind of physical load, but I do realize that a mother's job never ends. This week, when my son phoned me to say he'd been injured

at soccer, the first person I then called was my mum. "Mum, I need help." So, yes, I'd just like to give a shout out to mums.

Our story today starts with a young woman who is dreaming of becoming a mother. A young woman full of hopes and dreams. She's dreaming of becoming a beloved wife, of becoming a loving mother, of joyfully worshiping God with her family. She can see her whole life planned out happily before her. But our story isn't just about one woman, because Hannah's life changed when she ran to God, when she trusted God and Hannah's trust impacted her children, her family, her nation, and actually her trust, and what we hear in this story today impacts the entire world. It still has an impact on us today. So as we explore Hannah's story today, my question for you is this: will you be like Hannah? Will you trust your unknown future to an all knowing God? Because when one person trusts their life to God, God can change the world.

So we start with Hannah, full of hopes and dreams. But the moment we start this story, we already quickly realise that things are not going to her perfect plan. She is able to marry, she is loved by her husband, but her dream of becoming a mother just doesn't happen. Month after month, year after year passed by, and Hannah doesn't have children. And to make things worse, her husband's other wife, Peninnah, has many children, many sons and daughters. And Peninnah is not a nice woman. She is described as Hannah's rival. She's described as provoking Hannah to tears. And these insults grew worse and worse every year.

Each year, Hannah and the family would go to Shiloh, to the temple, to worship God, to offer sacrifices, and to be in God's presence. And often at this time, at a place that should have been a place of hope, a place of healing, a place of comfort and worship, these insults from Peninnah would absolutely drive Hannah to tears. She knew pain. She knew disappointment, and she also knew understanding. I heard a few little chuckles around me when the Bible tells us what her husband says.

You know, he tries to encourage her and says, "why are you weeping? Why are you so down? Why aren't you eating? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?" I just think I don't think that helped. I don't think that would have helped if it was me.

So we have Hannah. She's bereft, disappointed, in pain. You know, I wonder if you've experienced this journey of hopes and dreams and of disappointment and of pain where life hasn't met your hopes, your expectations. Perhaps you never found the one to marry. Perhaps he suffered from infertility while everyone around you seemed to be starting families. Maybe you've been passed over for promotions or sustained an injury that prevents you from fulfilling your dreams.

And those around you try and comfort you by giving you platitudes and encouragement to look on the bright side, but they don't really help. I think this is the story of all of us. It's a story that's been

repeated throughout history. A story that's occurred generation after generation. A story that we've heard across cultures and nations, for men and for women.

Each individual with one life to live, with our hopes and dreams, with disappointment and pain. Before we hear about what Hannah does to deal with her pain, I'd like to tell you a story about William. William is the firstborn child of dairy farmers. His mother had big hopes for her firstborn son. He was full of curiosity and lots of energy, and he would often get underfoot.

His mum was relieved when he started school and was out of the house for a few hours. He fidgeted and made noise in church, and his father is reported as having said, "if you don't be quiet, the preacher's going to call your name from the platform." Tempting to use threats sometimes. William loved to read and roleplay, and one of his favourite characters was Tarzan, so he could often be found swinging in the trees and practicing his Tarzan cry.

Despite his mother's hopes, William continued his mischief into school. He one day set a bin on fire, and then jumped out the first floor window and ran out of the school. He often failed his exams, but from a young age, William's mother encouraged him to see his life as having purpose.

And he had this sense that something big would happen in his life. Throughout his life, his mum and dad met every day at 10 AM to pray for their children. I guess that's after the cows had been milked in the morning. And at the age of ten, at the age of 16, William decided to follow Jesus. But despite commencing Bible college after he finished school, his troubles didn't end.

And at the end of the semester, he was at risk of being expelled from Bible college. His principal warned him not to throw his life away. He said, "God can use that voice of yours. He can use it mightily." And those words and that interaction with his principal, William took to heart. He trusted God with his future.

And God changed the world through him. You may know this boy not as William, but as Billy, as Billy Graham. It's estimated that 3.2 million people responded to the invitation at Billy Graham crusades to accept Jesus Christ as their personal saviour. And one of those people was my own dad, who at the age of 12, decided to follow Jesus at the Billy Graham crusade. So not only did William's life impact his family, his nation, it also impacted me.

So let's get back to Hannah. Hannah's life stretched ahead of her, but the future no longer looked so bright. What would become of her life? Would her dreams ever become a reality, or would with the future just be full of disappointment and pain? So now we come to a pivotal moment in Hannah's life, when she needs to decide how she's going to deal with her pain.

When she's taunted by Peninnah, provoked, weeping, not eating when she's misunderstood and in pain, where does she run? She runs to God. And in her deep anguish, Hannah prays to the Lord.

Weeping bitterly in her despair, she called out to the one who fully understood her. The one who could intervene in her life. She saw through this incredible statement of faith. She calls God the Almighty, the Lord Almighty. You know, the one who could fight her battles for her. The one who could protect her. Her Lord. So Hannah prays, *“Lord Almighty, if you would only look on your servants misery. And remember me and not forget your servant, but give her a son.”* And then Hannah vows, *“then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life. And no razor will ever be used on his head.”*

Now, that last bit is a bit weird, and you might wonder what on earth that's about. But we find the answer to that in Numbers 6, where we can read about the Nazarite vow. So a Nazarite vow was a vow that a man or a woman could make, to make a special promise or a dedication to the Lord.

It was normally for a set period of time that reflected what the vow was about. And during that time, the individual would abstain from any fruit of the grape vine, so no alcohol or juice, as a way of showing that they're setting aside worldly pleasures. They would never be in the presence of a dead body and wouldn't grieve death as a way of saying that death is part of the old life of not of God, it's a consequence of sin. And they would not cut their hair for that period as a visible sign to the people around them that they had taken that vow. So Hannah takes this idea of the Nazarite vow, and she supercharges it. She makes this vow over the son that hasn't even been conceived yet over the son that she believes God's going to give her.

And it's not just for a set period of time, but it's for every day of his life. She trusts the unknown of her future to the all knowing God, the all knowing and faithful God. And Hannah kept on praying. We don't know what else she prayed. That's between her and God. But as she poured out her heart to the Lord, she kept praying and her lips were moving.

And he again she experiences more misunderstanding. Where Eli, the priest who is supposed to be the one to help her into the presence of God, accuses her of being drunk. He says, *“well, how long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.”* But Hannah doesn't accept this accusation. She respectfully replies, *“Not so, my lord. I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer. I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.”* And Eli the priest speaks this incredible blessing over Hannah. He says, *“go in peace. And may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.”* In that moment, as Hannah accepted that blessing, something incredible happened as she poured out her heart to God, as she poured out her pain and her anguish and accepted this blessing of peace. Something changed in her spirit. Something changed in her heart. She took hold of this promise. She trusted the future to the all knowing and faithful God. Verse 18 tells us, *‘then she went away and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.’*

We see by her actions that she believed that God had heard her prayer and that he would answer her. Early the next morning, she gets up and worships God still before there's any evidence of his answered prayer. But she knows that he is worth worshipping. And then in the course of time, not

immediately (I do wonder what she was thinking in that course of time), Hannah becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son, naming him Samuel because 'I asked the Lord for him.'

You know, there was a time in my life when my hopes and dreams were shattered, when I experienced complete despair and uncertainty about the future. I got to the point where I couldn't even express in words to God how I was feeling. So I created some images to express that so he can see that sense of my heart breaking, the pain that I was feeling. The questions I had about the future, about whether I could trust God. But at the same time, it's hard to read. But down the bottom, you can say that there's this sense that at the same time as all of that pain, I recognise that God was the only one who could actually make a difference in my family and in my life.

I clearly remember one cold, wet Katoomba winter evening, standing in our lounge room and making this declaration to my husband, Gavin. I said, "I feel like I've hit rock bottom in my life and all that I have left beneath me is the Bible, is God's Word. The only thing I can trust as solid is the Bible. I just have to believe that what the Bible says is true, and that God's promises are true. It's all I have left."

But speaking out those words, expressing my need to trust God because I had no other option, was a pivotal moment for me. It wasn't a miraculous change. I didn't suddenly feel happy. I wasn't quite at the point of being able to go and not look so downcast immediately. But for me, it was the start of a journey back towards trusting God again and moving forward in my life.

So let's come back to Hannah. We'll fast forward maybe three years. Samuel's now been weaned. He's never had a haircut. Together as a family, they returned to the temple in Shiloh, taking a young bull to sacrifice, to worship God and taking young Samuel to give him to Eli, the priest in the temple, to give him to God.

Hannah reminds Eli of their previous interaction, saying, *"pardon me, my Lord, as surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord for his whole life. He will be given over to the Lord." And Samuel stayed with Eli to worship God and to learn to minister in the temple."*

Now I can't even begin to comprehend how Hannah felt in that moment. But rather than weeping or clinging to Samuel or doubting her promise, Hannah rejoices in the Lord. There's this incredible prayer that she prays. rejoicing in God, showing her faith and her trust in God. And it's a prophetic prayer. It speaks of God's promises and his faithfulness for her, for her family, for Israel.

She prays, *"My heart rejoices in the Lord. In the Lord, my horn, my strength, is lifted high."* She rejoices in the God who gives her strength to rise each day. *"There is no one holy like the Lord. There is no one besides you. There is no rock like our God."* He she declares that the Lord is her solid foundation, her

rock bottom. The one she can stand on when life is a mess. There's no one who comes even close to being like God.

And then she speaks some truths about God. About not letting your pride and arrogance be the thing that you rely on. She says, *"do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed."* And then over the next few statements, Hannah speaks out some incredibly godly wisdom, bringing glory to God and acknowledging that it is God who raises people up, and God who can humble those who are arrogant and strong.

"The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. Those who were full hire themselves out for food. But those who are hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children. But she who has many sons pines away." And because God is her rock, her sure foundation, she speaks out these beautiful words about God's people that for Israel. God is also the founder and the rock of this world, she says, *"the foundations of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world."* And then this final prophetic line, *"he will give strength to his King and exalt the horn of his anointed."*

We don't hear much about Hannah after this. We know that every year she visited the temple in Shiloh and took some clothes to Samuel. We learned that she was blessed with three more sons and two daughters. But from here we start to hear more and more about Samuel. I think these are words that any mum would be pleased to hear about her son, that Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord, that he grew in stature and favour with the Lord and with people and all Israel recognised that Samuel was a prophet of the Lord. As the Lord revealed himself to Samuel through his word.

I love a good story. One of my favourite podcasts is The Moth Radio Hour, where real people tell real stories. I love a well-crafted story. I think we've watched pretty much all the true story movies that you can watch. And for me, what I love most is seeing that pivotal moment in someone's life. That moment that might be inconsequential or appear to be that moment that someone just speaks a word or something small happens that ends up changing the trajectory of that person's life.

You know, when someone overcomes adversity to reach their mission, those pivotal moments in someone's story, it's like for Billy Graham, that time in the principal's office when his principal said, "God can use that voice of yours. He can use it mightily." I wonder if the principal even remembered saying that years later. And I see Hannah's prayers as being those pivotal moments.

You know, this series on is on history makers, and it's these pivotal moments in Hannah's life that makes her a history maker, a history maker for her own life, but also for the nation of Israel, for God's people. I kind of like processes and diagrams, so this is kind of how I conceptualise it. So we have Hannah with her hopes and dreams, her disappointment and pain being misunderstood and

provoked. And she runs to God and prays, and in her pouring out of her heart and receiving that blessing from God. This is her pivotal moment when she trusts her unknown future to the all knowing and faithful God, and her life is changed around. She went on her way. Her face was no longer downcast. She went and ate and she worshipped the Lord.

And God gave her a son who she dedicated to the Lord for all the days of his life. And her son continued to grow in the presence of the Lord, and she continued to worship God. But Hannah's individual story also impacted the nation of Israel, the people of God that were God's chosen people. They'd been rescued from Egypt. They'd entered the Promised Land. They'd heard God's voice. They'd been shown his direction for them. But then things turned bad. At the time of Hannah's life, Israel was in turmoil. They were morally depraved. Their religion had grown cold. They were a leaderless nation. They were vulnerable to attack from the Philistines and even the priesthood. The people who were supposed to represent God and bring them to God were absolutely corrupt with moral scandals.

And 1 Samuel 3:1 tells us that in those days the word of the Lord was rare. The future of Israel was unknown and uncertain. But then we have that pivotal moment in the story where Hannah gave God and gave his people the greatest gift a mother could give. She dedicated her son to the Lord, and on the day she presented Samuel to the temple as she prayed, there was that pivotal change in the history of Israel.

That pivotal moment of prayer changed the future of the nation. Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord. He listened to God's voice. He was recognised as a prophet, and he spoke God's word to the people of Israel. He anointed Saul as the first king of Israel and later anointed David, as you know, the young shepherd boy as the next king of Israel, a man after God's own heart.

And through that line of David, generations later, came the King of Kings, Jesus, the one who's the only Son of God that God gave to us as the Savior of the world. When Hannah trusted her unknown future to the all knowing and faithful God, God changed her life. And through her prayer and trust, God changed the future of the nation of Israel and not just Israel, but still today, where we are impacted by Hannah's faithfulness, by her prayer of trust, as we are able to decide to trust in Jesus.

So what about you? Will you be like Hannah with your hopes and dreams? With your disappointments and pain? With your current circumstances? With your unknown future? Will you trust your unknown future to the all knowing and faithful God? Will you allow today to be a pivotal moment in your own life? I believe that if you do that, God will be faithful, that God is faithful, that he will make a change in your heart, that he will make a change in your life, and that that change will impact those around you. It will impact those you love. And God may even change the world. So if you want to trust your unknown future to the all knowing God, I just ask that you pray with me.

Post-Sermon Prayer *Speaker: Cathy*

Almighty God, we thank you that you are the all knowing and faithful God. God, we thank you that we can trust in you. That you know us as individuals. That you know where we stand in history and what this world needs at this time. So, God, we bring all of our hopes, our dreams, our disappointment and pain. We bring it all before you this morning and ask that you would carry that. Father, we ask that you would make a change in our hearts and in our lives. And we trust you and worship you for all that you are and for all that you do. Amen.

Worship Singing

Song: Build My Life by Brett Younker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kaple, Matt Redman, Pat Barrett

Post-Worship Prayer *Speaker: Stephen Bates*

God's word just speaks so much encouragement, doesn't it? That in our lowest times, in our hardest times, it's this decision to trust God in that. And sometimes it's that decision that at the time, just seems a small one. What difference can that make? It does, it makes all the difference. And so, father, would we this week in the everyday and in particular in the midst of disappointments or pain or grief, Lord I pray that your spirit would just prompt us, remind us of what we've heard this morning, and that we would choose to trust you in that.

That we would choose to do the right thing. That we would choose to do that which honours you. And that our first response would be to come to you in prayer. Father, we thank you for your presence always. The Holy Spirit is here now. He doesn't live here. He lives within us. Thank you for your presence. Always.

May our first response be prayer to call out to you, to trust you. Thank you for the way in which you encouraged us this morning by your word. And would you plant that deep within us for the times that will come where we need to remember that? And so, Lord, may you bless each one of us as we leave this place. May we leave with a sense of hope and knowledge of your goodness and your presence with us at all times and with renewed strength for what this week will bring, and for what the future will hold. And may we live lives that bring glory to you. Amen.

Conclusion *Speaker: Stephen Bates*

Thank you so much for being here this morning. There's opportunity for prayer this morning. If you would love to be prayed for about anything at all, there'll be people who'll be down the front. And we would love to pray with you and for you. There's also morning to continue the conversations and encouragement for that as well. Bless you all.

Online Outro *Speaker: Kathy Bates*

Hey, thank you for joining us online today. We pray that you have been blessed and encouraged. And if there is something from today that you would like us to pray into with you, don't hesitate to let us know.

If we haven't met you, we'd love to hear from you. And you also welcome to come and join us in person as well. To know more about our church, please go to our church website and you can also find more details about who we are through our newsletter. And you can subscribe to that through our website as well.

God bless you and may you have a great week.

**Names have been changed to protect privacy.*