

## Morning Prayer 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost/  
The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Song of Mary

Morning Worship with Helen Rose Wilson



### Personal preparation before the service begins.

Please take time to remember where you are,  
and why you are here.  
Give thanks and become still  
in the presence of God

### Prelude: ACF 13 Bless the Lord

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.*

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Lobe den Herrn, meine Seele, und alles in mir seinen  
heiligen Namen.*

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.*

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Lobe den Herrn, meine Seele, und vergiss nicht, was  
er dir Gutes getan.*

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.*

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O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**  
Give us the joy of your saving help

**and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.**

**Introit:** Isaiah 61.10-11

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
**my whole being shall exult in my God;**  
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
**he has covered me with the robe of  
 righteousness,**  
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
**and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.**  
 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
**and as a garden causes what is sown in it to  
 spring up,**  
 so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
**to spring up before all the nations.**

**Prayer of preparation**

**Almighty God,**  
 to whom all hearts are open,  
 all desires known,  
 and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
 cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
 by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
 that we may perfectly love you,  
 and worthily magnify your holy name;  
 through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**The Collect for today,  
 the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

O God, you declare your almighty power  
 most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:  
 mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,  
 that we, running the way of your commandments,  
 may receive your gracious promises,  
 and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;  
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
 who is alive and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

The Old Testament reading is taken from 1 Samuel 2,  
1 – 10a.

**Our hearts and our minds are open.**

Hannah prayed and said,  
“My heart exults in the Lord;  
my strength is exalted in my God.  
My mouth derides my enemies,  
because I rejoice in my victory.  
“There is no Holy One like the Lord,  
no one besides you;  
there is no Rock like our God.  
Talk no more so very proudly,  
let not arrogance come from your mouth;  
for the Lord is a God of knowledge,  
and by him actions are weighed.  
The bows of the mighty are broken,  
but the feeble gird on strength.  
Those who were full have hired themselves out for  
bread,  
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.  
The barren has borne seven,  
but she who has many children is forlorn.  
The Lord kills and brings to life;  
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.  
The Lord makes poor and makes rich;  
he brings low, he also exalts.  
He raises up the poor from the dust;  
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,  
to make them sit with princes  
and inherit a seat of honour.  
For the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s,  
and on them he has set the world.  
“He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,  
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;  
for not by might does one prevail.  
The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered;  
the Most High will thunder in heaven.  
The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;  
he will give strength to his king,  
and exalt the power of his anointed.”

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### SoF 520 (ii) Tell Out My Soul, vv. 1, 2

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
 Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
 tender to me the promise of His Word;  
 in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!  
 Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
 His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
 His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

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Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
 Luke 1.46-55.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 forever.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Homily: Song of Mary**

If you have lived in the Freiburg area for a while, or come from a Roman Catholic background, you are probably aware that today is an important Marian festival within the Roman Catholic calendar. After all, Freiburg Cathedral is the “Münster Unserer Lieben Frau”, so it is celebrating its patronal festival today. You have only to walk through the centre of Freiburg and see the church banners flying to be reminded that it is a special day.

When I accepted the invitation to lead the service today, this association with the date of 15<sup>th</sup> August soon occurred to me but I will admit I was unsure about its relevance within the Anglican context, so I consulted “Common Worship”, the prayer book of the Church of England. In the calendar of Holy Days at the beginning of the book, it is literally a “red-letter day”, and in the section of the lectionary for “Festivals”, I found the entry for 15<sup>th</sup> August entitled “The Blessed Virgin Mary”, with the readings from Isaiah and Luke that we have just heard. In this message, I plan to concentrate on these readings, but before doing so, I would like to repeat the comment that I once heard about the Anglican church expressing its theology in its liturgy rather than in dogmas. In my understanding, our whole service of worship – the Bible readings, the prayers and our responses including the hymns and songs we sing – are all part of that liturgy. I am very grateful to Tini, Christoph and Hans for taking my suggestions into account in their preparations. In particular, the intercessions today are based on part of what the Bible tells us of Mary as a person, complementing these reflections on her song.

Her song, the “Magnificat”, was the passage we have just heard from Luke’s Gospel. But maybe you

experienced a slight feeling of *déjà vu* by the time we reached the Gospel in this service. Already in the prelude, we heard “Bless the Lord, my soul” / “Lobe den Herrn, meine Seele” – but this was the beginning of Psalm 103. We have prayed together that we may “worthily magnify your holy name”. Our introit began, “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God” – but these were words of the prophet Isaiah. Our Old Testament reading from the First Book of Samuel was the thanksgiving that Hannah prayed after dedicating her long yearned-for son, Samuel, to the Lord. It opened with the declaration, “My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God.” And together we sang “Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord”, in a metrical paraphrase of the “Magnificat”. Mary responded to God’s grace and goodness with an exuberant song of praise, as generations before her had done and generations after her have continued to do to this day. Her song draws clearly on the songs of the Jewish people to whom she belonged and serves as a model for our songs of praise today. Like her, we recognise the greatness of God and rejoice that we can experience His love for us despite the awe that His immeasurable greatness evokes in us.

However, the “Magnificat” is not only a song of praise, it is also a song of subtle protest. “He has shown strength with his arm” may initially appear to be yet another of God’s attributes worthy of praise, but when it is connected to “the proud” being scattered “in the thoughts of their hearts”, “the powerful” being brought down “from their thrones” or “the rich” being sent “away empty”, this God starts to become more uncomfortable. A world in which the powerful repress “the lowly” and the rich do not share their food – or their vaccines – with the poor is not a world as God intended it to be. Mary’s song reminds us that glorifying God should also include acknowledgement of His will for the world. Once we have acknowledged that, we as His servants are challenged to ask ourselves how we can be instruments of that will.

In September, we will be observing the season of Creantide, when we will be further reminded of the

consequences for the whole world of greed, injustice and apathy by the powerful and rich, to whom we belong. Reflecting on this will almost certainly make the many options clear to us that each of us can take to make a difference to the future of our earth; trust in God's strength may help us to actually take those options. Also in September, those of us with German citizenship will be able to vote in the Federal elections; prayerfully exercising that right is a small sign that we are not apathetic but aware of the consequences of political decisions. This weekend, it is 60 years since the wall dividing Berlin was built – but also 32 years since it fell, undermined by the "Peaceful Revolution" in which the prayers and peaceful protests of Christian played a pivotal role; another option that is open to us. Dorothee Sölle, the German theologian, expressed the relevance of Mary's praise and protest to us today in her Meditation on the Magnificat, with which I would like to conclude (in my unauthorised translation):

It is written that 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  
today we say it like this:

my soul sees the land of freedom and my spirit will  
emerge from anxiety

the empty faces of women are filled with life  
and we will become humans

awaited by the victims, the generations before us

It is written that Mary said:

for he who is mighty and whose name is holy has done  
great things for me

and his mercy endures from generation to generation  
today we say it like this:

the great transformation that happens to us and  
through us

will happen with all – or it will not happen

mercy will be practised when the dependent can  
abandon their wasted life

and learn to live themselves

It is written that Mary said:  
 he shows strength with his arm and scatters the proud  
 he topples the powerful from their thrones and lifts up  
 the downtrodden  
 today we say it like this:  
 we will dispossess our owners and get to laugh  
 over those who know the female nature  
 the reign of males over females will come to an end  
 objects will be transformed into subjects  
 they gain their own better justice  
 It is written that Mary said:  
 he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the  
 rich away empty  
 he remembers his mercy and has helped his servant  
 Israel  
 today we say it like this:  
 women will travel to the moon and decide in the  
 parliaments  
 their wishes for self-determination will be fulfilled  
 and the craving for mastery will remain empty  
 their fears will become baseless and their exploitation  
 will have an end.

Amen.

### **ACF 65 Inspired by love and anger vv. 2, 3, 5**

2. From those forever victims of heartless human  
 greed,  
 their cruel plight composes a litany of need.  
 'Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of  
 peace?  
 When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their  
 release?'

3. From those forever shackled to what their wealth can  
 buy,  
 the fear of lost advantage provokes the bitter cry:  
 'Don't query our position! Don't criticise our wealth!  
 Don't mention those exploited by politics and stealth!'

5. God asks, 'Who will go for me? Who will extend my  
 reach?  
 And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and

preach?’  
 And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they  
 know?  
 And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I  
 show?’

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### **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the Virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic Church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting.  
 Amen.**

### **Intercessions**

As we pray to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 we say like Mary:

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

**Holy is your name.**

Your prophet of old foretold a day when a virgin would  
 conceive  
 and bear a son who would be called God-with-us.

Help us to look forward to your deliverance  
and to seek the fullness of your kingdom.  
Give us a sense of you being with us.  
Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.  
**Holy is your name.**

Your angel declared to Mary that she was to be  
the mother of the Saviour. She humbly accepted the  
angel's declaration and was obedient to your calling.  
Help us in the same way to be open to your word  
and obedient to your will. Give us listening ears and  
open eyes to discern what you are calling us to do and  
courage to carry it out.  
Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.  
**Holy is your name.**

Mary rejoiced with Elizabeth and sang your praise,  
'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.'  
Help us to live joyful lives that sing your praise and may  
we extend that joy to those around us who are longing  
to experience it.  
Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.  
**Holy is your name.**

Mary bore a son of David's line,  
a king whose reign would never end and a kingdom  
that would be marked by peace.  
Bless all the nations of the world with Christ's gift of  
peace. We pray especially for peace in countries like  
Afghanistan, Lebanon and those we name on our  
hearts.  
Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.  
**Holy is your name.**

The child Jesus grew in wisdom and stature  
in the home of Mary and Joseph.  
Strengthen our homes and families,  
and keep under your protection all those whom we  
love. We pray especially for those whom we haven't  
seen in a while.  
Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.  
**Holy is your name.**



they shall be called children of God.  
We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and with your spirit.**

Let us share with each other a sign of God's peace.

### SoF 620 (ii) Tell Out My Soul, vv. 3, 4

3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!  
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure:  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

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### Blessing

May the Father,  
who has loved the eternal Son  
from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon us his children.  
**Amen.**

May Christ,  
who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill us with joy and peace.  
**Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-  
bearer,  
give us grace to carry the good news of Christ.  
**Amen.**



And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.  
**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Announcements

(see below)

## Postlude

### ACF Magnificat

Magnificat, magnificat, magnificat anima mea  
dominum.

Magnificat, magnificat, magnificat anima mea.

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Look forward to our next

Communion Service  
with Revd. Peter Widdess

22th August 2021  
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
11:30 hrs, Zoom link see website  
and in person in the church 😊



## Evening Prayer on Wednesdays

Wednesday, 18th Aug. 2021  
9pm (for 20-30min)

(Please use the usual  
Sunday service link.)

