



# BANORA POINTER

Sunday 17 November 2024



## A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



### Faith and Trust in God's Plan: Reflections on 1 Samuel 1:4-20

In our reading from 1 Samuel 1:4-20, we find one of the most touching stories of personal devotion and faith: the story of Hannah. Her deep trust in God not only transforms her life but also plays a crucial role in God's plan. In this passage, Hannah's heartache, prayer, and commitment to God reveal powerful lessons on faith and the way our personal devotion can connect us to God's larger plans.

Hannah's story begins with deep sorrow. She's the wife of Elkanah, who loves her dearly, but her despair comes from being childless in a society where family and children are highly valued. In those times, not having children wasn't just a personal disappointment—children were seen as a blessing from God and not being able to have children led to social shame and derision. To make matters worse, Elkanah's other wife, Peninnah, who has children, constantly taunts Hannah about her barrenness. Yet, despite her anguish, Hannah doesn't turn away from God. Instead, she turns to Him with a heart open to His will, even in the face of deep disappointment.

When we look at Hannah's actions in this story, we see an example of faith that goes beyond what seems possible. Her prayer is a model of honesty and humility. Instead of hiding her pain she pours her heart out to God, "weeping bitterly" she asks for a child. Importantly, Hannah's prayer includes a promise: she vows that if God grants her a son, she will dedicate him to God's service. This kind of trust—not only asking for a blessing but also surrendering the outcome to God's purpose—is at the heart of faithful prayer. It's important to understand that Hannah isn't bargaining with God. She's offering her deepest desire back to Him, showing her trust in whatever His response will be.

As Hannah prays silently in the temple, Eli, the priest, notices her. At first, he misunderstands, thinking she is drunk. But once he

realises she's praying in great distress, he blesses her and prays that God will answer her prayer. Feeling encouraged, Hannah leaves the temple with a renewed spirit, trusting in God's goodness even before her prayer is answered. Her faith brings her peace before any outward change has occurred. She puts her trust in God, believing He has heard her, and leaves her worries with Him.

In time, God answers Hannah's prayer, and she and Elkanah have a son, Samuel. True to her vow, Hannah dedicates Samuel to the Lord's service. Samuel's becomes a prophet and judge who will guide Israel during a critical period. Through her faith and devotion, Hannah becomes part of God's plan for Israel's future—a plan much larger than her own life or desires.

For us today, Hannah's story reminds us that our personal devotion and prayer can have far-reaching effects. Each prayer, each act of trust, each step of faith can connect us to God's greater purposes, even if we don't see the immediate results. When we bring our desires and heartaches to God, trusting Him with our deepest concerns, we become open to being used for His plans.

We may not always see the impact of our faith, but we can trust that God hears every prayer and values every moment of devotion. In difficult times, let's find courage in Hannah's example and offer our lives—our hopes, fears, and dreams—back to God. Trust that He can work through them in ways we may never fully understand. As disciples, let's remember that our personal faith and trust in God are not small acts; they are the seeds of His amazing work in the world.

Grace and peace  
Rev. Aaron

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### Acknowledgement of country

Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

### Today's Bible Readings

**1 Samuel 1:4-20**

**Hebrews 10:11-25**

## What's Happening This Week

<b>Today</b>	Chaira Companions 12 noon
<b>Tuesday</b>	Mainly Music 9.30am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Prayer Meeting 8am
<b>Thursday</b>	Men's Bible Study 8.30am KYB (CWCI) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm
<b>Saturday</b>	Church Fete 8am

## Church Roster

**Today**                      **Next Sunday**

Kids' Church	All Aged Worship	Joyce
Duty Elder	Robyn	Elizabeth
Organist/Pianist	Jill & Mel	Audrey
Greeters	Lorraine & Sylvia	Jill & Joan C
Bible Readers	Terryll & Nigel	Dudley & Sylvia
Prayers for Others	Terryll	Joyce
Morning Tea	Pat & Hazel	Mary & Chris
Hall Set Up	Craft Club	Marshall
Sound Room	Ross	Elizabeth
Cleaning	Craft Club	Lorraine & Helene

*If you are unable to do your roster, **please organise a swap AND let Janice know ASAP.***

## There Is Support Available

If you or someone you know is in need of help or support please let us know and how we can help by calling either;  
Rev. Aaron: 0411 325 527  
or Your Pastoral Carer

## Other upcoming events for your diary

**Mainly Music** 26 November 9.30am  
**Book Swap, Coffee & Chat** 27 November 9.30am  
**Craft Club** 29 November 9am  
**Men's Breakfast** 30 November 8am  
**Contemplative Prayer** 7 December 10am  
**BCC Family Fun Day** 7 December 3pm  
**Church Council Meeting** 10 December 7pm  
**Fellowship Lunch** 11 December 12 Noon  
**Chaira Companions** 15 December 12 Noon  
**Elder's Meeting** 14 January 4.30pm  
**Pastoral Care Meeting** February 10.15am TBC

## Contemplative Prayer & Christian Meditation

**Join us and discover the peace and spiritual depth of ancient Christian disciplines.**

Come and join us for a time of Contemplative Prayer and Christian Meditation. Through a step by step process, you'll learn how to apply these ancient Christian practices into your daily devotional time. This welcoming space is open to everyone—whether you're new to prayer, seeking a deeper connection with God, or simply curious about the Christian practice of contemplation and meditation.

**When & Where**—10am Saturday 7 December at the church.

## Family Fun Day

A little reminder that the Border Council of Churches is holding a Family Fun day on Saturday 7 December at Jack Evans Boat Harbour from 3pm until 7pm. Activities will include, craft, food, games, music and will conclude with Carols. Our church's contribution to the day will be a Christmas decoration craft table for children, and games/competitions. If you want any more information or can spare some time to help with this, please speak to Terryll.



## Church Calendar 2025

The calendar for next year is currently being worked on. Can the various groups please forward their dates for 2025 to Nigel at [bpt.uchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bpt.uchurch@gmail.com) as soon as possible?

## Offerings

As the Body of Christ here at Banora Point, there are many ways we can contribute to Christ's ongoing mission. Volunteering in local community groups is one way we can be the presence of Christ sharing the Gospel in action in our community. Another important way we can contribute to the mission of Christ at Banora Point Uniting Church is financially. The offering enables the Uniting Church to have a continued presence in Banora Point, it allows us to run our current outreach programs and will help us meet the changing needs of our local community in the future. Our offerings are received physically during the Worship Service every week or if you prefer you can choose to give electronically, directly into our account. You can do this by direct debit or at your local Commonwealth Bank branch. Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

Banora Point Uniting Church Bank details are:

Account Name: The Uniting Church in Australia Banora Point Church (Note: Your Bank website may limit the number of characters you can put into the account name box so "The Uniting Church in Aust" is OK)

**BSB No:** 062 611 **Account No:** 10120762