

December 30, 2018

A Child in the Temple of God



Ancient Reading ~ I Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Samuel was ministering before YHWH – a boy wearing a linen ephod around his waist (indicating he was performing the functions of the priest). Each year his mother, Hannah, made him a small cloak, when she went up to sacrifice with Elkanah, her husband. Eli would bless Hannah and Elkanah, and say, “May YHWH grant you children by Hannah in place of the one you gave to YHWH.” Then they would return to their home. And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with God and with the people.

Contemporary Reading

~ adapted from Sister Macrina Wiederkehr in “A Tree Full of Angels: Seeing the Holy in the Ordinary”

To pray is to touch God and let God touch us. It is a matter of presence and response. Prayer does nothing to make God more present, for God is always present. Prayer is our response to the presence of God in our lives.

A friend comes to see us. What do we do? We reach out to touch and receive that friend. We allow this friend, in some way, to touch us. Friendship is a marvelous exchange, and that is exactly what prayer is. So how do I pray?

I listen. I talk. I weep. I am silent. I embrace the beloved. I gaze with reverence. I gaze with wonder. I adore. I share my needs. I have tea with God. I give gifts. I receive gifts. I give thanks and I say I’m sorry. I scream. I get angry. I show God all my life, including my very divided heart. I relax. I’m at home. Sometimes I read a poem or tell God a story. Sometimes I dance. God loves stories and poems and dances.