



Paths to Spiritual Growth

Week 6. Cathedrals

- Do you have a 'special / sacred space'?
- Read 1 Samuel 1:20-28
- How had Hannah's prayerful experience led her to act when she became mother to Samuel?
- How might difficult or painful experiences change the way we see God?

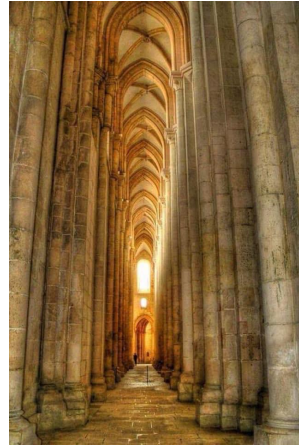
Hannah vowed to give her son into the service of God at the Temple as an offering of thanksgiving & praise.

- Why might a Cathedral (as an equivalent to Temple), be regarded as a 'spiritual place'?
- Why do you think so many people visit Cathedrals every year? What is the attraction?
- How might the architecture, art or symbolic structures of a Cathedral help us reflect on our relationship with God?

Place has a determining influence on the way people behave,...think, the rhythm of their lives & their relationships.'

[Philip Sheldrake : Spaces for the Sacred; Place, Memory, & Identity : Johns Hopkins University Press : 2001 : p.4]

- Reflect on Sheldrake's quote above. How might it be true for you & your relationship with God?
- Where else might you be drawn to seek God?
- How might a return to the real meaning of Mothering Sunday be a positive encouragement in our journey through Lent?
- Close with prayer for those who find Mothering Sunday a difficult day and for us all to find or make a 'sacred space' for God in our lives.



A sacred space is any space or area that has been dedicated to a sacred (holy) purpose. All major religions have places set aside as holy, which are used for worship, prayer, meditation, and rituals. Architecture is often used in unique ways designed to enhance the spiritual experience.

'Mothering Sunday began as an explicitly religious event of the 16th Century, with no connection to mothers at all. The word "mothering" referred to the "mother church", which is to say the main church or cathedral of the region. It became a tradition that, on the fourth Sunday of Lent, people would return to their mother church for a special service. This pilgrimage was apparently known as "going a-mothering", and became something of a holiday event, with domestic servants traditionally given the day off to visit their own families as well as their mother church.'

[Source : Yesterday.uktv.co.uk]

Virtual Tour of Winchester Cathedral

https://youtu.be/_v-pN7XDs_E

