

## Litanies and Reflections based on Bible Themes

copyright Katherine Hawker

[katy@liturgyoutside.net](mailto:katy@liturgyoutside.net)

### 1 Samuel 1 (2003) - Hannah's Prayer

A prayer for life to fill the void.  
A prayer that reverberates throughout time  
for a child  
for a partner  
for a friend  
A prayer that is at once lost  
and found  
A grief exposed for the healing balm  
A prayer that grows in the crevice of despair  
pushing past the boundaries  
bursting forth in new life  
A prayer for life to fill the void

### 1 Samuel 17 (2003) and Mark 4:35-41

The winds raged and the disciples trembled.  
*Goliath taunted and Saul tasted fear.*  
Enter Jesus  
*Enter David*  
staring beyond the fear  
*daring us to do the same.*  
The winds will rage  
*and giants will taunt*  
and fear will weaken our gait.  
*Still Jesus*  
Still David  
*offer a challenge*  
not limited to wind and bullies  
*but beckoning to the heart of the timid.*  
Staring beyond the fear  
*focused on the greater power*  
daring us to do the same.

### 1 Samuel 17:1-58 and Matthew 5:38-42 (Luke 6:28-31) - Turning a Cheek (1997)

Strength is commanding  
the wind and sea to obey,  
Strength is wielding  
a slingshot in the face of a raging giant.  
Strength is accepting vulnerability  
from inside the boat,  
Strength is standing in solidarity  
with the powerless.  
Strength is turning a cheek,  
Strength is loving an enemy.  
We come to worship  
a God who redefines our vision of strength.

### 1 and 2 Samuel - David Stories

#### Invocation

God of Bathsheba, we come yearning for  
wisdom to embrace life  
despite its tragic complexity.

God of Tamar, we come in search of  
strength to endure  
the horrific consequences of untamed greed.

God of Michal, we come claiming  
courage to name the insults offered even now  
that belie your goodness.

God of the Story, meet us today  
with living waters abundant  
to quench your thirst.

#### Litany of Confession and Promise\

David loved Jonathon

**yet he wore the uniform of Jonathon's killer.**

David danced for joy in the streets

**while Michal bore witness to his drunken  
excess.**

David's power and status grew

**as did his scorn of the blind and the lame.**

David wanted to build a temple

**thus proving his devotion.**

David built a legacy of broken lives

**thus proving his culpability.**

We are David,

**mourning the loss of our love and our  
innocence.**

We are David,

**guilty of exploiting those entrusted to our  
care.**

We are David,

**unexpected hero and unrepentant  
scoundrel.**

We are David,

**we belong to God.**

#### Prayer of Dedication

**Gather the gifts of our hands and hearts,  
living Spirit.**

**Use these gifts to build not monuments to  
your distant glory,**

**but testaments to your intimate love. Amen.**