

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

“Would you recognise Christ today?”

Weighed down in the constraints of this pandemic wilderness, spiritual flourishing is tough going. It is Anna and Simeon who bring direction that enables us to recognise Christ more clearly.

Simeon, his years behind him a lot longer than ahead, was a devout Jew and a good listener. The Holy Spirit had revealed death would not come until he had seen the Messiah. In faith he trusted the promise would be fulfilled.

Anna was also elderly, eighty-four years old. She had been widowed after only seven years. Her grief led her to the Temple in Jerusalem. Here she spent her years fasting and in prayer, day and night.

We arrive at the day Mary and Joseph took Jesus to be presented in the Temple, as was the custom of the Mosaic Law. Simeon sensed something would happen, so went to the Temple.

As soon as Simeon saw them, he recognised the Lord Christ. Gathered Him in his arms and praised God. Anna already in this place, watched and listened. Understanding she too had seen the Lord, gave thanks.

Both Anna and Simeon show us we need patience. Whether the road is easy or an uphill struggle. Faith is a movement of endurance. A private faith that belongs to Christ. In which our prayers, whether personal or collective, give the courage and vision we need. A patient heart enables the emptiness to be filled with the treasures of the Holy Spirit.

Dreaming of receiving His love and peace. Yearning to see the face of Christ. Hoping the Holy Spirit will lead us from the shadows into the light. We have to be brave. Take those courageous steps so we can be bathed in the warmth and gentleness of Christ.

What Anna and Simeon are encouraging us to do is to:

- Explore our personal journey.
- Pray and meditate into experiences when Christ compassionately intervened.

Christ, Priest to the world knows the limits of our survival capabilities.

Christ comes to give us life.

The very life of God. And will do so again and again.

God's peace in Christ is offered to the world.

Christ is Priest Eternal, our light, our love, our healer.

As Simeon lifted up Jesus in thanks and praise his words implied the fulfilment of rest and peace. His beautiful song is known as the Nunc Dimittis, often said at the end of the day.

My invite is to say The Song of Simeon during the evening.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen
thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel



Luke 2.29-32

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.
Amen.**

Jackie