

Week Beginning: 29th December 2019

Worship Series: #6 in series

CHRISTMAS
PLAYLIST

living sharing growing

Theme Verse

"Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised I have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all people.

Luke 2:29-31

Remember This Week

Only when you are ready to die, are you ready to live. Without fear or regrets. When you are secure in the salvation and peace that the Christ-child gives, you're ready to live on the edge - loving fully, forgiving freely, sharing boldly and risking confidently. Christ gives you the strength to really go in 2020!



I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy according to the abundance of his steadfast love...in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Isaiah 63:7, 9b

Lord God as Simeon recognised and embraced your promised salvation in the Christ-child, give us such faith to also embrace him, that he may fulfill our deepest yearnings and fill our whole lives with contentment and joy. Place your song of eternity on our lips today that we may launch into the new year ready to life wholeheartedly for you. We ask this in the name of the Christ-child, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



1. *Share your highs and lows since you last met with one another.*
2. *How did you go with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *If there was one thing on your bucket list that you had to do before you died, what would it be and why? Why haven't you done it yet?*
4. *What song describes your 2019?*
5. *Who is an older person, other than parents or grandparents, who has had a significant impact on your life in some way? What was the impact?*

What's been on your Playlist for 2019? What new tunes have you discovered? What old favourites have you fallen back in love with? What was the song that you replayed most? How does your playlist mirror the events, the emotions, the journey of the past year or anticipate the approaching new year? Our musical tastes and preferences are intensely personal and incredibly subjective. Today Simeon shares the song whose tune is timeless, and whose lyrics give meaning to every generation, regardless of culture, nationality, preference or personality. It's a song for eternity and we pray it may become a personal favourite for you too.

Read Luke 2:22-38

6. *What words, themes, or ideas stand out for you most in this text?*
7. *What things strike you about Simeon? Who was he, what are we told about him?*
9. *What was Simeon waiting for? What do you think "the consolation of Israel" means?*





10. *What is the longest you've ever waited to receive something you've been promised, and what was it? How did you feel when the promise was finally fulfilled?*
11. *What do we learn about mission from this text? It's scope, it's reach, it's purpose*
12. *What do you learn about God from this reading?*
13. *How do Simeon and Anna represent hopeful living?*

Mary and Joseph had waited nine months for their promised child to be born, but the people of Israel had been anticipating the coming of the promised Messiah for centuries. Simeon was one such man. Simeon was "righteous"; that is, he kept God's laws and the laws of his society, behaving well toward others. He also was "devout," carefully fulfilling prescribed religious duties. The combination of the words "righteous" and "devout" stresses that he thoughtfully lived out his relationship with God. In addition, we are told that he was full of the Holy Spirit.

14. *What is the relationship between Simeon's righteousness and active devotion and his recognition of the Saviour and what can you learn from that in your own life?*
15. *When you come to Church to worship, do you come with the anticipation that God will reveal himself to you? Why or why not?*

The coming of Jesus is not just a sentimental, feel-good story. Immediately after praising God for Jesus' birth, Simeon told Mary news that no parent ever wants to hear, that their child would be divisive, causing the fall and rise of many. People would not remain neutral to Jesus. Division would result from his life and ministry as some would fall in judgment while others would rise in salvation. Even some of Jesus' own people would reject him. This is made clear at the start of the gospel story, not part of a surprise ending. Jesus would cause division and opposition even as He went about bringing reconciliation, redemption, and salvation.

16. *How does Jesus cause the rising and falling of people today and why do you think some people are really threatened by Jesus?*

Only when Simeon held and recognised the baby Jesus in his arms for who he is, was he ready to depart in peace. Only Jesus matters. That's what Simeon tells us today. All his longings were met in the one he received that day.

16. *What is your greatest longing, and what does that reveal about where your heart is focussed and what your ears are attuned to?*

Jesus comes to reveal the Father's glory. We are also told in this passage that he is the revealer of hearts?

17. *What has he revealed in your heart over the last month? If you struggle to find something, why do you think that is?*
18. *What aspects of your Christian life require you to wait patiently and how does cradling Jesus make all the difference in your waiting?*
19. *What is one spiritual goal you have for 2020, and how can your LifeGroup help you achieve that goal. Be bold in choosing something.*



- * Praise God for the gift of salvation which enables you to live for eternity. Thank Jesus for coming in the flesh to be the fulfilment of all God's promises. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you sing the song of Simeon daily in your life, living in peace and with a purpose in 2020.
- * Pray for those families devastated by the fires in our country at the present time, for those who have lost loved ones or property and for those who fight the fires that God would strengthen them in their weariness and protect them in difficult situations.
- * Pray for LifeWay in 2020, that God would continue to use us in greater ways to fulfill his purpose and plan for us.
- * Pray for a boldness to live more fully in his grace, confident of your salvation and active in doing what God has called you to do, knowing that it is never a waste of time.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

Name, may Christ in you fill you with confidence and boldness in 2020! Amen.

