



Jesus is Our Sure Hope: *Wait for Him*

CCF CHRONICLE

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LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

In Luke 2:22, Joseph and Mary presented Jesus at the temple in obedience to God's Law given through Moses: the circumcision and sacrificial offering for their firstborn son. Mary and Joseph knew precisely what to name their Son, as the angel Gabriel had instructed them before His birth. "Jesus" means "YAHWEH saves," signifying that God saves! Jesus arrived at the perfect time to fulfill God's promise to Israel and for all of us who need a Savior from our sins, to liberate us from the consequences of breaking God's Law (Galatians 4:4). In the book of Leviticus, Jewish parents were instructed to offer a lamb at the Temple, but if they couldn't afford it, they could offer a pair of turtledoves instead (Luke 2:24). Jesus' family couldn't afford a lamb, highlighting not only Jesus' poverty in taking on a human body for our sake but also in the family He was born into (2 Corinthians 8:9). But Jesus came for everyone - both the poor and the rich! He fulfilled all the prophecies about Him in the Old Testament, and truly He is our sure hope!

Let's explore two often-overlooked characters of the Christmas story who waited on the Messiah — Simeon and Anna — and consider what they had to say about the baby born in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.

Wait with HOPEFUL ANTICIPATION (LUKE 2:25-35)

To wait in hopeful expectation is to be certain and assured of God's promises based on His character and promises. In Jerusalem, there lived a righteous and devout man named Simeon, who eagerly awaited the comfort and redemption of Israel. Guided by the Holy Spirit, he had received a divine revelation that he would witness the Messiah before his death. Prompted by the Spirit, Simeon entered the temple courts just as Jesus' parents brought him for the customary Law observances. Taking Jesus into his arms, Simeon praised God, expressing gratitude for the fulfillment of the promised salvation — a light for the Gentiles and the glory of Israel.

Simeon then blessed them and spoke directly to Mary, predicting that this child would influence many in Israel, causing both their downfall and rise. He foresaw that

Jesus would be a sign met with opposition, exposing the true thoughts of many hearts. Simeon concluded with a message to Mary, foretelling that her own soul would experience profound sorrow, like a piercing sword.

Wait with JOYFUL PERSEVERANCE

To wait with joyful perseverance is to embrace trials with hope and faith. James 1:2-4 tells us to consider it all joy when we have trials because it produces endurance that results in our maturity. When the Messiah came, "the deliverance the people desired was not the deliverance the people required" (Alistair Begg). The Jews were waiting for their Messiah to set them free from Roman oppression, but He did not come for that. While the people joyfully welcomed Him as Jesus entered Jerusalem, they demanded His crucifixion only a few days later. What the world needed was a Messiah to deliver us from sin. We need to look back to what Jesus did for us on the cross when we feel that we can't go on (Hebrews 12:2). The best is yet to come for those of us who believe in Jesus!

Wait with GRATEFUL SERVICE (LUKE 2:36-38)

To wait in grateful service is to actively live out God's purpose in our life in the process. A prophet named Anna, hailing from the tribe of Asher and the daughter of Penuel, was also present. Despite her advanced age, having been a widow for most of her life after a brief seven-year marriage, she remained dedicated to the temple. Anna spent her time in continuous worship, fasting, and prayer. At that moment, she approached the family and expressed gratitude to God. She then shared with everyone who anticipated the redemption of Jerusalem about the child.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us share with all who would listen, the truth that Jesus is the only Person who can fulfill the hunger we all have that the world can never fulfill. Simeon and Anna knew that they were able to wait with hope, joy, and grateful service — and we can do so as well wherever we are!

last week's memory verse

"Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation, Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, A Light of revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."

LUKE 2:29-32

discuss the message

Are you currently in a season of waiting? What are you waiting for and what has God been teaching you as you wait?

Would you say you are "ready to die" like Simeon was? Share why.

In what areas can you still improve when it comes to waiting with joyful perseverance?

How can you be a light to the Gentiles/unbelievers during this Christmas season?

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What's the perfect gift this Christmas?

Let's talk about it at **Welcome Center!**

Step into the Community

Fellowship and learn together with people like you!

WOMEN2WOMEN ALL WOMEN

WOW Thursdays is on Christmas break!

CONNECT WITH THEM ONLINE

- ccfwomen2women
- CCFWomen2WomenMinistry

BIG MINISTRY SINGLES

BIG Ministry is on break and will resume on February 16!

CONNECT WITH THEM ONLINE

- B1GMinistry
- beonewithgod

NXTGEN KIDS FROM 4-12 YEARS OLD

Merry and Bright: Let the Joy of Christmas Light the New Year

Sundays, 9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM
G/F North Wing

ALSO STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

- ccfnxtgen for ages 4-12
- zoom for ages 7-12

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LOOKING FOR ANSWERS? THINK YOUR VISIT IS A COINCIDENCE? YOUR BEING HERE TODAY IS NO ACCIDENT!

God brought you here for His purpose.

1 God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

*Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who **keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments – Deuteronomy 7:9*

2 God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. – Romans 3:23

3 God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. – Romans 5:8

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. – John 14:6

4 God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. – John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

5 God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. – 1 John 5:11-13

ccf SERVICES AT THE CCF CENTER

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE
5:00 PM

SUNDAY SERVICES
ENGLISH
FILIPINO
9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM

ONLINE LIVESTREAMS
 ccf.org.ph [ccfmain](https://www.facebook.com/ccfmain) [ccfmainTV](https://www.youtube.com/ccfmainTV)
9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM

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