

## **12/24/23—Sermon—Simeon: A Song of Hope**

### **I. The Story**

- a. Jesus was taken to Jerusalem (about 5 miles from Bethlehem) to be presented at the temple to the Lord in accordance with the Law of Moses (required for first-born sons) and Mary would go through a purity rite that women went through after childbirth.
  - i. Indicates Joseph and Mary's faithfulness to the Torah.
- b. Simeon, filled with the Holy Spirit, came to them at the temple and held Jesus in his arms and offered this "song."
  - i. Think how odd this would have initially seemed for Mary and Joseph
- c. Joseph and Mary marveled at his words.

### **II. Who is Simeon?**

- a. An elderly man who waited at the temple
- b. A good man who tried to follow God's law.

### **III. Simeon's waiting**

- a. Simeon lived in a very dark time in Israel's history.
- b. Although he was very old, he continued to wait.
- c. He trusted in God's promises.
  - i. He had hope that God was at work.

### **IV. Simeon's Song**

- a. Self-described as God's servant
- b. He recognized salvation in Jesus.
- c. His greatest longing is for his people *and* for all people.

### **V. How are you with waiting for Christmas?**

- a. What does your heart song express as you are waiting on God?
- b. Do you hold onto hope in the midst of life's challenges trusting that God's ways will come through?
- c. Will you refuse to let pessimism rob you of life's joys?
- d. Are you open to God's Spirit directing you in the midst of life's waiting?