

Reflection for the Week: 7-14 February 2021-02-07

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

(Read Luke 2: 22-40)

Simeon and Anna had been shaped by decades of Jewish ritual and practice. Their lives had been moulded by personal prayer. They were expectant people. They were looking for God to act. They had been raised with the knowledge that Yahweh is a God who redeems, delivers and saves.

Anna is looking for God to end Roman oppression. Did she really expect a baby as an answer to prayer? Simeon is looking for 'the consolation of Israel'. He is looking for God to send a Saviour for the people, someone who will bring reconciliation and peace. When Simeon meets Jesus he knows God has been faithful to his promises and he can die in peace. It is a profound and touching moment.

In Simeon and Anna we find passion, hope, nationalism, territorialism, devotion and the indwelling of God's Spirit all mixed up together. Despite very human mixed-motives and imperfect understanding, God calls each of them into the Temple at the right moment. They follow the nudge. At the right time, God has stepped in to act. There is a saying: 'When God wants to act he sends a baby.'

To reflect: God is full of surprises. What we see is dependent on what we expect to see through the eyes of faith. Can we see what God doing among us right now? Do we trust God sufficiently to follow where the Spirit leads?