

December 31, 2023 – First Sunday after Christmas

Simeon's Proclamation

[Luke 2:22-35](#)

Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word" (Luke 2:28-29)

Mary and Joseph had each been visited by angels who proclaimed 'Good News' about their child before his birth. And now this righteous man named Simeon, a man of great faith, proclaimed this baby Jesus was sent by God to bring peace to the world.

This was a huge announcement for such a small baby. But Simeon was obedient to God, and he knew this baby was different from other babies who were brought to the Temple. This baby was truly the Son of God. Simeon also knew that while Jesus would bring peace to many, the world would not believe nor accept Him.

I never had any children so I can only imagine hearing what grandparents, aunts and uncles would have said/proclaimed about my child's future. I was told very few stories about my own birth. I am not sure what plans my parents had for me or what they imagined or sensed my future would hold for me.

As a congregation within the United Methodist Church, we have the opportunity to also proclaim the Good News for each child who is baptized. The congregation is asked the historic question: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this child now before you in your care?

And we PROCLAIM:

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround this child with a community of love and forgiveness, that he/she may grow in their trust of God, and be faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that she/he may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

I cannot say this without tears falling on my face because this is an awesome responsibility and privilege to be a part of service and hopefully in this child's life.

This is just a reminder that through babies, we can still proclaim the Good News! Look around you. We can see the Holy Spirit proclaiming through others as well as each of us when we open our hearts to once again hear the proclamation of Good News.

Prayer: Lord, give me the ears to hear and the boldness to proclaim your Good News to the world. Amen

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