

Dear Families:

Today is the final day of 2023! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas holiday with family and friends, remembering the reason for the season. We celebrated last week with a fantastic Christmas Program! The boys put on a great performance, and we would like to say thank-you to everyone who helped make it possible. What a great way to celebrate the season!

Today in Sunday School, we read about what happened after the events of Christmas Day. Mary and Joseph, followers of God's law, took Jesus to the temple to be circumcised and officially named. At the temple, two elderly people were there to pray and worship. Simeon was a devout man, and he had asked God not to die until he had seen the Savior. That day, the Spirit told him to go to the temple. He waited in the temple and when Mary and Joseph brought in baby Jesus, Simeon knew immediately that this was the Christ. He took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying he was now happy to die because he had seen the savior. Simeon told a stunned Mary that her Son was destined to cause the fall and rise of many, and that she would suffer greatly for it. Also in the temple was Anna. Anna was a widow who remained in the temple day and night, fasting and praying to God. She was 84 years old, and regarded as a prophet. She also saw Jesus, and immediately gave thanks to God that the redeemer of Jerusalem was here at last!

How long it seems to us when we wait! Especially when it is for something we long for and have thought about for years, or even decades! This story reminds us to be patient. God always comes through for us. It is rarely ever in our time, but it is always in God's time. And that is always the better option. Like Anna and Simeon we must trust God's timing, keep having faith, and continue to pray and worship- it will be very much worth it!

Thank you for joining us today!

Carol McClellan, CE Director