

Seasons of the church calendar...

Lent = place God's ways, and not our appetites, as the guiding principles for our lives

Pentecost = be filled with God's life because the Spirit has been poured out

Ordinary time = see God in the mundane, everydayness of life

Advent = reminds us that even when we're not faithful in our waiting,
God is faithful in his coming

Abraham and Sarah: *Waited* 25 years for Isaac (the promised son) to be born

The Israelites: *Waited* 400 years in slavery in Egypt, then 40 more years wandering in desert

King David: *Waited* 15 years after being anointed king before he occupied the throne

The Exiles: *Waited* 70 years in Babylon before they returned to Jerusalem

Jesus: *Waited* 30 years before becoming more public/well-known as the Messiah

Luke 2:25-32

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel [for the promised Messiah], and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

Simeon = "God has heard", around 100 yrs. old in Luke 2

- righteous and devout (v. 25)
- Holy Spirit was on him (v. 25)
- revealed to him by the Holy Spirit (v. 26)
- moved by the Spirit (v. 27)
- took the Messiah in his arms (v. 28)

Much of what is loved by the world is overlooked by God, and much of what is loved by God is overlooked by the world.

BUT, God never overlooks a HUNGRY man!

➤ **Simeon's waiting didn't diminish his worshiping**

resilience = growing stronger as you grow older

"A kind of second childhood falls on so many men. They trade their impact for the promise of a small increase in life span...I did not want to surrender fierceness for a small gain in yardage. My wife married a man; I saw no reason why she should inherit a baby."

– John Steinbeck, *Travels with Charley*

➤ **Although Simeon waited a long time, he didn't leave**

Simeon kept going to the temple courts, kept believing God would deliver on His promise.

"God Tells the Man Who Cares" by A.W. Tozer



Advent question → Am I willing to stay planted, even when it's difficult, in order to wait on God's timing?

➤ **Simeon refused to follow false Messiahs**

During Jesus' lifetime, several people claimed to be the Messiah...

Judas the Galilean: led a revolt against Rome in 6 AD inspired by the tax imposed by the Roman prefect Quirinius

Theudas: a charismatic leader who gathered a large following before being suppressed by Roman forces around 44 AD

Simon bar Giora: a patriot leader who emerged during the First Jewish-Roman War

Athronges: a shepherd who led a messianic rebellion with his four brothers in Judea between 4 and 2 BC

Simon Magus: a Samaritan who claimed to be a god, calling himself the "Standing One"

Matthew 24:5 (Jesus speaking)

"For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many."

➤ **Simeon didn't waste his waiting**

Who we become while we wait, is as important as what we are waiting for.

"You can't go back and make a new start, but you can start right now and make a brand new ending." – James Sherman

"Waiting patiently is not like waiting for the bus to come, the rain to stop, or the sun to rise. It is an active waiting in which we live the present moment to the full in order to find there the signs of the One we are waiting for." – Henri Nouwen

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- PRAYER SETS: SUNDAYS, 9AM | TUESDAYS, 10AM | WEDNESDAYS, 6:30PM
- CRAFTING KINDNESS - DECEMBER 6, 10-11:30AM
- NOT SO SILENT NIGHT - STUDENT MINISTRIES - DECEMBER 7, 6PM
- WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER - DECEMBER 12, 6:30-8:30PM
- CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - DECEMBER 24, 7PM
- WOMEN'S DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDIES | TUESDAY, 7 PM | FRIDAY, 10AM
- MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKOUT - JANUARY 16-18, 2026 - REGISTRATION IS OPEN

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