

Rediscover Christmas

Week 1

12/06/2020

Unsung Hero's Project

This is your invitation to join the MCS family express God's Love to our communities Unsung Heros. The goal: to bless 150 families representing essential workers from the Sanitation, Street and Water Departments, Fleet Mechanics, Corrections Officers, Social Workers, School Nurses and the Information Departments that keeps them all connected. These men and women serve Sanford from behind the scenes, they are always on call, always ready to step in when we need them the most.

Three Ways to Help

1. Sponsor a \$25 Gift Card. (please earmark your online or in person donation with "Unsung Hero").
 2. Sign (first names only) our THANK YOU letter located in the Café Lobby.
 3. Pray for the Lord's best blessings on those we are serving!
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Finding Hope in Our Uncertainties

(Luke 2:22-38, NIV)

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

1. Hope sees beyond.

- Romans 8:1
- Romans 8:24-26

2. God is with us—here, now, and always.

- Matthew 1:23
- Jeremiah 29:11
- Isaiah 43:1-2

3. Hope inspires us to carry on.

- Romans 5:2-5

Power Points

- Hope **INSPIRES** us.
- Hope **EMBOLDENS** us.
- Hope **BUILDS** upon hope and **KEEPS** us going, no matter what.

DISCUSS & APPLY

1. Simeon and Anna were “faith-giants” to their generation. Who in your life has held out HOPE for you in spite of all the odds? How did their example ultimately inspire you? Who are you aspiring to inspire?
2. During the Christmas season, we celebrate the Incarnation, God becoming flesh and dwelling among us (Matthew 1:23). The Bible teaches, that every Christ follower becomes the Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 13:6), a fresh expression of God among the people. Read Jeremiah 29:11 & Isaiah 43:1-2 and reflect on how this truth emboldens you to live out your faith regardless of the circumstances.
3. Take a few minutes to read, reflect and pray over Romans 5:2-5. Take a few minutes to write your profession of HOPE in your Bible or prayer journal. Make sure its easily accessible for future reference. Let His WORD expressed in your words serve to build your faith and resolve going forward.