

# Willow Springs Worship, Sunday, December 31, 2023. 9:30 am

Simulcast on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4743450556>

Meeting ID: 474 345 0556 Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Hosted by Elaine Good

Anna and Simeon's lives were shaped by their active waiting for the fulfillment of God's promises, so much so that they were able to recognize the infant Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Through Advent and beyond, we are also shaped by our active waiting. In our worship, we offer one another the ways in which we have seen and recognized the signs of God's work around us, and we celebrate the faithfulness of God.

**Welcome and Call to worship** – Esther Johnson

Call to worship

Leader: Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

**High voices:** At that moment, Anna, a widow who worshiped at the temple with fasting and prayer night and day,

**Low voices:** began to praise God and to speak about the child to everyone who was looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Leader: The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

**People: Our long wait is finally over!**

*(pause)* **All: Together we rejoice**

**Songs** - Phil Kaufmann

**Children's time** – Ellen Davis Zehr

**Scriptures** – Luke 2:11, 12, 21-3

**Sermon** - Hope Complete

**Songs**

**Sharing/Pastoral prayer** After prayer times "Lord, in your mercy" respond with "hear our prayer."

**Song**

**Announcements:**

The globe banks as a reminder of all of us doing our part in world hunger. The 50 Cent offering will be shared with the Bureau County Food Pantry and Mennonite Central Committee. Children can drop coins in the globe bank as they walk to the Children's time. Adults can place their offering in the bank before or after the worship service.

Our church building desperately needs a new roof sooner than later. We plan for a new steel, hidden fastener roof to last for decades to come! If you would like to the project, please mark your check – Building Fund.

# CALENDAR

Dec. 31 Candlelight Communion Service, 7:30 pm, bring snacks and games to share in a time of fellowship following the service.

Jan. 3 Church Board Meeting, 7:30 pm.

**Sending:** Leader: Together we rejoice!

**People: Our waiting is over!**

Leader: We've seen the One, the light to all peoples, who grew in strength and is filled with wisdom. The favor of God is upon him! Completed hope! Go! Rejoice! God is here! God goes with us!

Online giving option: <https://tinyurl.com/donateWSMC>

Luke 2:11-12 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

## Jesus Presented in the Temple

22 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 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord), 24 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."

25 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. 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."

33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 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, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

36 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, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

38 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.

39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.