



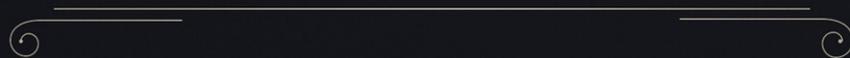
*The Anthems of*  
**ADVENT**

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Decorative flourish consisting of a horizontal line with ornate scrollwork at both ends.



# Anthem of Hope



<sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

**Luke 2:25-35**

<sup>27</sup> 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,

<sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

**Luke 2:25-35**

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup> The child’s  
father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

**Luke 2:25-35**

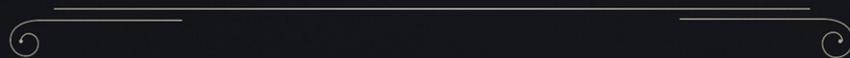
<sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

**Luke 2:25-35**





# 1) A Song of Consoling Hope (vs. 25-26)

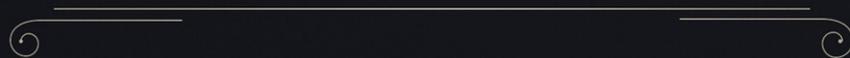


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**Luke 2:25-26**



## A) A Time of Roman Oppression

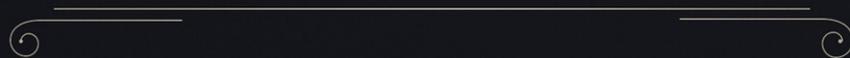


<sup>1</sup> “In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.”

**Luke 2:1-3**



## **B) A Time of Dead Religion**



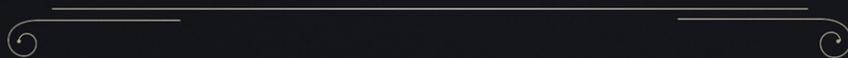


If Jesus was here at church this morning,  
would you see Him or would you miss Him?

The difference between Simeon and everyone else  
was the presence of hope



## C) A Time of Messianic Errors





The masses missed the *Messiah*  
because they were looking for a hero  
and not an eight-day old baby

<sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

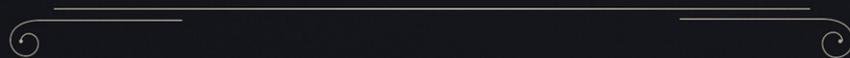
**Isaiah 40:1-2**

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**



## 2) A Song of Personal Hope (vs. 29-32)



<sup>29</sup> “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

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

**Luke 2:29-32**



Time may diminish our hope, but the faithfulness  
of God should increase our hope

<sup>19</sup> He is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

**Numbers 23:19**



God fulfills His promises to us during our lifetime

<sup>13</sup> Set your hope fully on the grace that is coming  
to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

**1 Peter 1:13**



The second revelation of Christ  
will require just as much hope as the first  
revelation of Christ required



The early Christians did not walk around saying “Merry Christmas” to each other. They walked around saying “Maranatha” to each other.

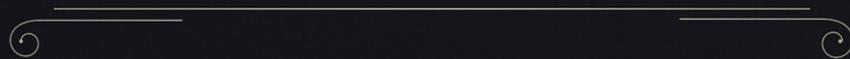
- Rev. Dave Campbell -



Even though over two thousand years separate us  
from the first coming of Christ, nearly two  
thousand years separate Abraham from Christ



### **3) A Song of Global Hope** **(vs. 33-35)**



<sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> 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,

**Luke 2:33-35**

<sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.  
And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

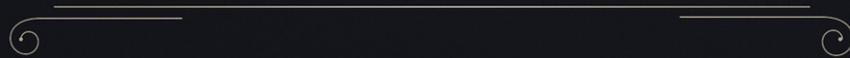
**Luke 2:33-35**



**A) Jesus creates “cause and effect”**

**“This child is destined to cause the  
falling and rising of many in Israel”**

**(vs. 34)**

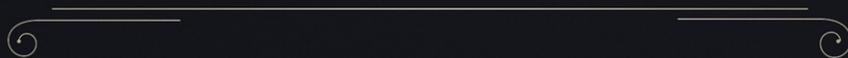




## **B) Jesus is the sign**

**“And to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.”**

**(vs. 34-35)**



Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

**John 14:6**



“Do you believe what you believe you believe?”

- Dr. Albert Mohler



In universalism, “the religions are just like the different panes of a stained glass window. You can preach this if you are a heretic. It's really one light and you've got the Christianity coloured pane, the Judaism pane, the Islam pane, the Buddhist pane, the Hindu pane and together don't they make a beautiful window, all the religions of the world?”

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel,  
because it is the power of God that brings  
salvation to everyone who believes”

**Romans 1:16**

<sup>15</sup> But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

But do this with gentleness and respect,

<sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

**1 Peter 3:15-16**



Application: This Christmas I want to...

- 1) Revere Christ as Lord
- 2) Be prepared to give an answer for my hope
- 3) Respond with gentleness and respect
- 4) Keep a clear conscience



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