nexus church

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 14.12.25

PREACHER: PS JOSH PLUMB

Simeon's Song: Salvation, Faithfulness, and Holy Disruption

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

***BEING [HEART]**, THINKING [MIND] & DOING [BODY]*

[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]

Conviction of a Disciple:

A disciple learns to wait with patient hope, trust God's faithfulness across time, and allow the Spirit to disrupt comfortable assumptions so Christ's saving grace can take deeper root.

OVERVIEW

Luke tells the story of the first Christmas through songs—melodies born in darkness, in longing, and in disappointment. Simeon's song rises from decades of waiting and becomes a declaration that salvation has finally arrived. His words remind us that Advent is about trusting God's faithfulness, welcoming His salvation, and allowing His grace to reshape our hearts toward others.

ACTION

Q1. Where do you sense that something in your life is "not quite right," but you've struggled to name it?

Q2. What promise of God are you still holding with patient hope?

Q3. Who might God be inviting you to extend grace toward, even if it feels uncomfortable or disruptive?

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:21–35

There is a particular kind of song that rises only in waiting. Not the polished kind, but the kind sung by people who have lived long enough to know disappointment, delay, and unanswered questions. This is true for Simeon's song. In it, we hear the voice of a man who has waited decades for a promise, holding onto hope, and who, at last, finds that hope resting quietly in his arms.

When Simeon takes the infant Jesus and declares, "My eyes have seen your salvation," he is not celebrating an new system or an ideal. He is proclaiming that salvation has come in the form of a person. Jesus is not merely the means to salvation; He is salvation. And the deepest longings of the human heart—to have what is broken made whole and what is bent made straight—finds its answer not in effort or strategy, but in a relationship with Him.

Simeon's words also reveal something profoundly honest about the human condition. We often sense that something is wrong before we can explain it. Like a warning light that shows up on our car's dashboard, our lives carry signals of dis-ease—fractured relationships, inward-bent desires, and the quiet insistence that my will should be first. Salvation, then, is not just forgiveness of past wrongs or liberation from external oppression; it is rescue at the very core of who we are. We need saving from ourselves.

But Simeon's song does more than offer us momentary comfort—it is also meant to disrupt us. Simeon declares Jesus as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles," extending grace beyond the boundaries Israel expected. Salvation, it turns out, is wider than our categories and deeper than our preferences. Grace reaches not only those we love easily, but those we struggle to understand, forgive, or welcome. This is the part of the song we can often find hardest to sing.

Simeon is moved by the Spirit. That detail matters. This kind of transformation cannot be manufactured. We cannot manufacture ourselves into grace or fake our way into love. This is the Spirit's work. Only the Spirit can loosen our grip, soften our resistance, and form in us the freedom to desire God's good even for those who have caused us pain. Our job is to make way in our lives for that deep, transformative, Spirit-work to take place.

Advent invites us to sit with this song—to let salvation, faithfulness, and holy disruption reverberate within us again. To wait honestly and trust deeply. And to allow God's grace to make what is wrong, right—beginning in our own hearts and flowing from us out into the world.

DISCUSSION

[A GROUP REFLECTION]

1) What stands out to you about Simeon's long season of waiting?

2) Why is it difficult to accept that salvation comes from outside ourselves?

3) How might God's grace be disrupting your assumptions this Advent?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
Our salvation and our light, restore to us the joy of Your saving work. Teach us to wait with hope, to trust in Your faithfulness, and to welcome the ways Your grace challenges and reshapes us. By Your Spirit, make us people who reflect Your mercy to all.
Amen.