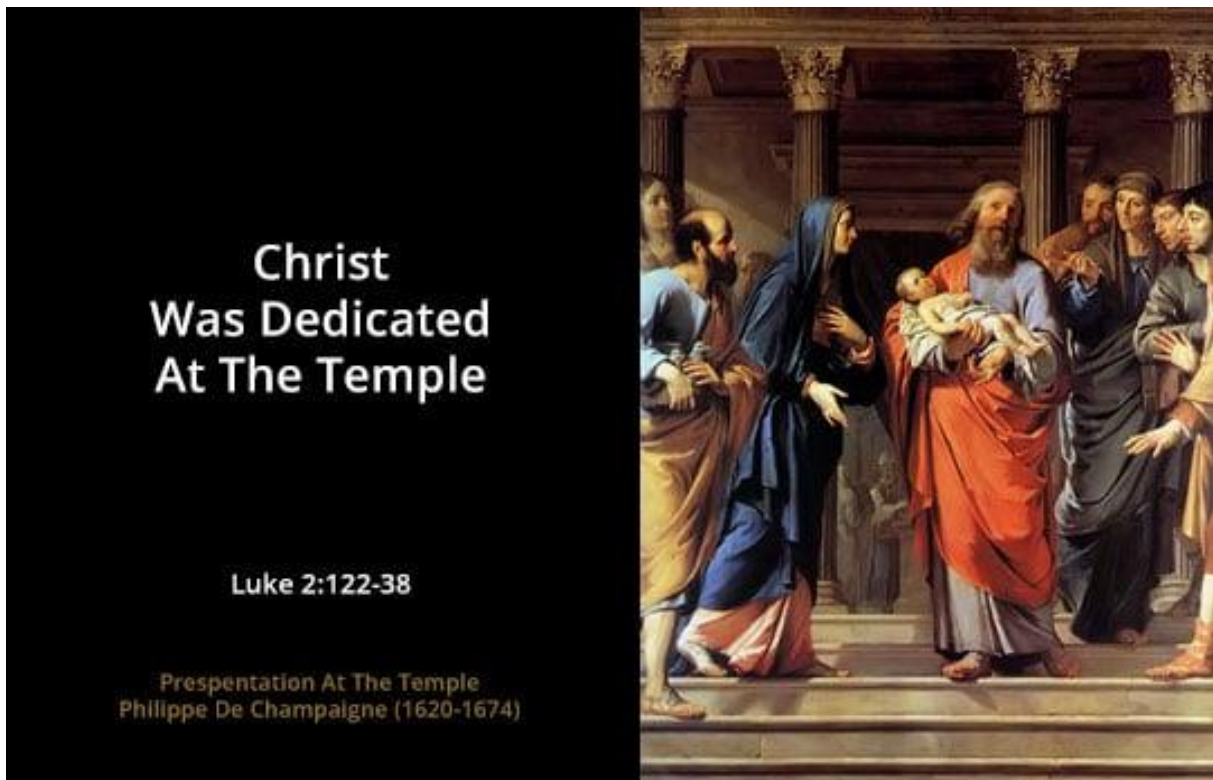


# Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

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03/01/2021 – In with The New

## Jesus Presented at the Temple



**A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL**

All lockdown services can be found at: [www.mbccs.co.uk](http://www.mbccs.co.uk)


"The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah."  
**Jeremiah 31:31**

## Good morning and welcome to the end of our journey to Christmas.

We have 3 hymns/carols today as we end our journey:

The first is "Love Came Down at Christmas"

[Love Came Down at Christmas, Love all Lovely Love Divine. - YouTube](#) (different tune)

		
1. Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas star and angels gave the sign.	2. Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine; worship we our Jesus what shall be our sacred sign?	3. Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine; love to God and neighbour, love for prayer and gift and sign.

## Our reading today are taken from Luke 2:22-40

[Luke 2: 22-40 NIVUK - Jesus presented in the temple - When - Bible Gateway](#)

<sup>22</sup> 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 <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup> 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'.

<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. <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.

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

<sup>36</sup> 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, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> 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.

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

## Our second Hymn is “A New Day is Dawning”

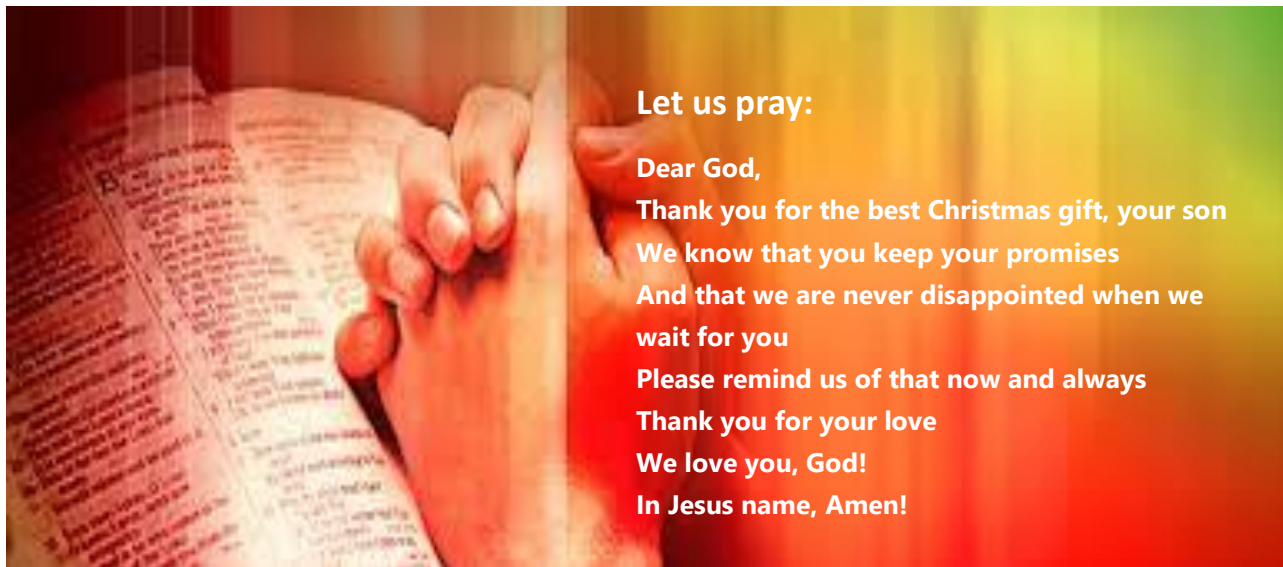
[My Movie mp4 An army of ordinary people - YouTube](#)

An army of ordinary people,  
a kingdom where love is the key,  
a city, a light to the nations,  
heirs to the promise are we.  
A people whose life is in Jesus,  
a nation together we stand;  
only through grace are we worthy,  
inheritors of the land.

*A new day is dawning,  
a new age to come,  
when the children of promise  
shall flow together as one:  
a truth long neglected,  
but the time has now come,  
when the children of promise  
shall flow together as one.*

A people without recognition,  
but with Him a destiny sealed,  
called to a heavenly vision:  
His purpose shall be fulfilled.  
Come let us stand strong together,  
abandon ourselves to the King;  
His love shall be ours for ever,  
this victory song we shall sing.

*A new day....*



**Let us pray:**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for the best Christmas gift, your son**

**We know that you keep your promises**

**And that we are never disappointed when we**

**wait for you**

**Please remind us of that now and always**

**Thank you for your love**

**We love you, God!**

**In Jesus name, Amen!**

So, today we are finishing our Christmas Journey... That's it...Christmas is all done and over. There are still some decorations and Christmassy things on display, but the day is over and during this next week all the signs of Christmas will be gone.

The presents are now put away, can you even remember what you received. Last week on Christmas day we shared with each other some of the presents (and wooden spoons) that were special to us and very thoughtful. However, I have to say, I'm a little disappointed. I mean, I waited and waited for Christmas to come, I opened my Advent calendar and counted down to Christmas, and I was so excited, but really, this year was kind of a let-down! There are all sorts of things I usually get to do, like go to the pantomime meet up with friends, enjoy the office party and see all of my family...and none of that got to happen in 2020. And even some my gifts this year were lame....

Anti-bacterial wipes



Toilet paper

Hand Gel



Face masks



I know these are valuable things in 2020, but I was kind of hoping for something a little more exciting.

Do you ever feel like that? You get excited and you wait for something, and maybe it feels like you wait for a long time, and then you get disappointed with what happens? Perhaps your Christmas was like that. Or maybe your whole 2020 was like that! I guess if we are eagerly waiting for something like parties or presents, it can be easy to feel let down or disappointed.

In this morning's reading, there were two people who had waited a very long time for something special to happen. Anna and Simeon were two people who worked in the temple. Both of them were getting old, and they had waited their entire lives for the Messiah. They knew God had promised to send a saviour who would lead and rescue the people. Simeon was a priest, and God had told Simeon that he would get to see the chosen Messiah before he died.

Mary and Joseph, as was the Jewish custom, took baby Jesus to the temple after he was born. They had special ceremonies to do for Him. God told Simeon that the time had come for him to see Jesus, and he knew just what baby it was. Simeon was so excited to meet Jesus! He gave thanks to God for letting him witness the Messiah. He even said that he was satisfied and could die in peace, because he had laid eyes on the promised one.

Another old temple worker was there, Anna. She also blessed God and gave thanks for this new-born Saviour. Both Simeon and Anna had waited for years and years. Do you think they felt disappointed? No! They were so joyful and thankful that they had seen Jesus. He was worth waiting for.

And that's what we need to remember. As we finish one year and enter another, and as we say goodbye to Christmas 2020, let us remember what it is we celebrate. We are not only happy that the holidays have come, but that CHRIST has come. Jesus reminds us that God never forgets His promises. Sometimes it seems He is slow to answer our prayers or act on His word, but He always will. Jesus is the best gift of Christmas, and He will never disappoint. We don't just celebrate His coming one day a year. We should give thanks for it every day! He was born, lived, died, and rose again for us, to give us blessings and salvation.

So as we start 2021 with our new years resolutions, our desires to meet up and our hopes for the year to come let us remember to give thanks for the birth of Christ and thank God for that now, and always.

## Our final hymn is “New every Morning is Thy Love”


[New Every Morning is the Love \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

New every morning is the love  
Our wakening and uprising prove:  
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,  
Restored to life, and power, and thought.

New mercies, each returning day,  
Hover around us while we pray;  
New perils past, new sins forgiven,  
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

Old friends, old scenes will lovelier be  
As more of heaven in each we see;  
Some softening gleam of love and prayer  
Shall dawn on every cross and care.

Only, O lord, in thy dear love,  
Fit us for perfect rest above,  
And keep us this, and every day,  
To live more nearly as we pray.



The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,  
“Therefore I will hope in him.”

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-24

[truthforlife.org](http://truthforlife.org)

BibleWise

**Simeon and  
Anna Thank  
God**

—Luke 2



# Simeon and Anna Knew

Simeon and Anna were in the temple when Joseph and Mary brought the baby Jesus to be blessed. When Simeon held Jesus, and when Anna saw Him, they both knew something very special and important. Color out the names of SIMEON and ANNA in each row of the puzzle. Read the leftover letters to find out what they knew.



MAY GODS BLESSING SURROUND YOU  
EACH DAY  
AS YOU TRUST HIM AND WALK IN HIS WAY;  
MAY HIS PRESENCE WITHIN  
GUARD AND KEEP YOU FROM SIN.  
GO IN PEACE, GO IN JOY, GO IN LOVE!