

# Advent Devotional - Day 18

2025

December 18<sup>th</sup>



**Scripture: Luke 2:25-32** Verse: *“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.”*

## Reflection:

Simeon’s quiet faith wasn’t spectacle; it was steady presence—years of watching for God’s promise without making a scene about it. In Penn Hills that kind of waiting looks like folks who keep showing up: the neighbor who trudges to the food pantry each week, the teacher who keeps tutoring after long days, the older member who prays in the back pew while the world rushes by. Simeon teaches us that faithful waiting is not passive resignation but a patient, expectant posture that notices the small signs of God’s work in ordinary rhythms.

When Simeon finally took the child in his arms, his response was immediate praise and peace. That moment reminds us that God’s fulfillment can come in the most unassuming places—a clinic hallway, a diner at midnight, a local playground where kids finally find a safe corner to play. For our city and our church, it means that the consolation we long for often arrives wrapped in flesh and daily life rather than in headlines. Seeing salvation requires eyes tuned to what’s already present: kindnesses, repaired relationships, a single life turned toward hope.

Simeon also points us beyond private comfort to a public vision: this salvation is “in the sight of all nations.” In practical terms for Mt. Hope, that pushes us to witness patiently and inclusively, to hold up the stories of those who have waited and to make space for younger voices to learn what steady hope looks like. Our worship, service, and conversations should cultivate eyesight—so that when God moves among us in small, transformative ways, we recognize it, celebrate it, and let it change how we live together.

## Prayer:

Sovereign God, you who keep your promises and bring light into waiting hearts, give us the patience of Simeon. Shape our eyes to see your presence in small things, our hands to embrace the vulnerable, and our voices to praise when hope is fulfilled. Amen

## Today’s Mt Hope Mindful Response Challenge:

Reflect on a personal story in a short video or written testimony form that tells about a time that you have waited through hardship for God’s fulfillment and make them available online or in our newsletters for teaching others about patience and encouragement.



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