

Advent Devotional - Day 19

2025 December 19th



Scripture: Luke 2:33-35 Verse: *"The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 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, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.'"*

Reflection:

Watching Mary and Joseph, Simeon reminds us that Jesus changes people. Some will be lifted up by his way of life, and some will be challenged; meeting Jesus pulls out what's already in our hearts and forces honest choices.

When he says the child will be "spoken against" and that a sword will pierce Mary, we hear the cost of truth. Following Jesus can bring conflict and pain, especially when love asks us to stand with the weak or speak hard things that others don't want to hear.

For Mt. Hope that means we practice gentle courage. We stay close to people in their struggles, name the hard realities without shame, and choose compassion over convenience so our community can grow through the falling and the rising.

Prayer:

Sovereign God, give us the courage to welcome the truth of your Christ even when it costs us. Help us to hold one another through the hard work of change, to speak honestly and love fiercely, and to stand with the weak when doing so is unpopular. When pain comes, be our comfort; when conflict comes, shape our words and actions so they bring healing. Make Mt. Hope a place where falling leads to new life and where compassion always comes before convenience. Amen.

Today's Mt Hope Mindful Response Challenge:

Pause and pray each morning for courage to face the day's hard things and for tenderness toward those who hurt.



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