

The logo for 'twiyw' is displayed in a stylized, lowercase blue font within a white, rounded rectangular border. The background of the entire page is a dark, blue-toned illustration of a church interior with pews and a cross.

Taking Worship Into Your Week

12.27.20

Merry Christmas!

This Sunday, Dec. 27, we will begin a new worship series, and the title should ring a bell: "Let Ev'ry Heart Prepare Him Room." That line from "Joy to the World" is a call to action: We are to "prepare." It is also a promise: God desires to dwell within us. It is an all-inclusive invitation to "every" heart and is fitting for us as we get ready to step into 2021 and all it will bring.

Prepare for this coming Sunday by reading Luke 2:22-40; there you will find the account of people focusing on God's promises, preparing their hearts for the arrival of Christ, so that in them he finds "room."

Two of God's faithful people are moved to find the infant Jesus in the temple of Jerusalem and respond with joy to the fulfillment of God's promises to them, and His world.

Read Luke 2:22-40

1. Focus on vs. 22-24 and recall why Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple; using your study Bible, follow the prompt at the end of vs. 23 to remember the instructions God gave Moses about this "presentation."
2. What did the Holy Spirit move Simeon to do, as revealed in vs. 27? Ponder for a moment how wonderful it is that when we gather in "the temple," that is, a holy space where fellow believers gather, God promises to do "graceful" things; what, (just from knowing God as you do) are the "graceful" things he does when we're together in worship?
3. Even though Simeon declared he was ready to "depart in peace" (vs. 29) do you think he kept this good news to himself? Read 1 Cor. 6:19-20 and realize: Where is the temple, now?
4. Anna is in the temple how often (vs 37)? What did she do with the realization that she was in the presence of her Lord. . . did she keep this to herself?
5. Look up online the phrase "Nunc Dimittis," and grow in understanding how important for the world is this song of Simeon's. Top that off by going to YouTube, entering the same words, and listening to various interpretations of this song. What beliefs are strengthened in you when you hear and read these marvelous words?