



# THIS IS YOUR SPACE TO MAKE YOURS

**27 DECEMBER 2020  
REFLECTION POINTS**

## **BIBLE READINGS - LUKE 2:21-38**

“ After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising

of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

## **REFLECTION POINTS**

God’s hospitality is not mild mannered or polite. As humans, we may try to manage it but it will always spill over and leak out. It is disruptive, speaks out of turn, takes the structure and flips it over.

How can we show God’s hospitality in our communities?

Just as Simeon prophecies change for God’s people, so 2020 has changed us. But just as new growth comes from the destruction of bushfire, new beginnings come from endings. Sometimes we need to embrace the endings in order to welcome God’s hospitality.

What needs to end for us in order for new beginnings to emerge?

From the Corrymeela Community

*God of endings*

*what we thought would not end has ended.*

*And we find ourselves here*

*wondering where we are*

*and how we got here*

*and where to go from here.*

*Be with us, here, at the end.*

*Help us place our feet on this ground*

*help us lick our wounds,*

*help us look up and around.*

*Help us believe the story of today.*

*Because you know all about the endings of today.*

*And you are not afraid.*

*Amen*