



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: **When Christmas Comes Late**

Speaker: **Rich Villodas – Lead Pastor**

Scriptures: **Luke 2:22-33**

### **Jesus Presented in the Temple**

<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>[a]</sup>), <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>[b]</sup>

<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<sup>[c]</sup> 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 marveled at what was said about him.

### **Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday, Pastor Rich will close 2023 with a message that will position our community for a life-giving 2024. We will explore the story of an old man and woman in the New Testament who offer wisdom as it relates to prayer, waiting, and the surprising ways of God.

### **Sermon Questions:**

1. Share an experience when you were greatly challenged in the waiting. What are you waiting for on this last Sunday of 2023?
2. Read the Scripture text. What stands out to you about Simeon? What can we learn about his perseverance in waiting for the Messiah?
3. Pastor Rich shared the spiritual principle that “What God does in us as we wait is often more important than what we are waiting for.” How have you found this to be true in your own life?
4. One of Pastor Rich’s hopes for us in 2024 is that we would keep consistently showing up before God and one another. How can you do this more intentionally in the coming year? What will it look like practically (i.e. prayer, small group, EHR, choosing to read Scripture when you first wake up instead of going to your phone, etc.)?