



Grain

“Love is or it ain’t. Thin love ain’t love at all.” –Toni Morrison in “Beloved”
Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Roseville, MN

Field

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. ²³... ²⁵Now 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”... ³³ ³⁶There 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 seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At 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. Luke 2:22-23; 25-33; 36-38

Thoughts written by Rev. James Lynch, Town of Dunn, WI

Age, as they say, is just a number. Although for some of us, a much larger number than for others of us. And often it seems like it is held against us by those for whom the number is lower. We can be seen somehow as less – capable, aware, able to see and hear and take part in what is going on in the world. We are in some quarters dismissed out of hand; our years held against us. Society is always looking for the next big, young thing.

It’s good to know that God doesn’t see it that way. It’s good to know that God comes to us at any age in any place at any time. They do that in the story of Anna and Simeon as told in Luke 2. Joseph and Mary bring their newborn son to the Temple dedicate him to God as set out in the law of Moses. In the Temple is the prophet Anna, a woman of, shall we say, advanced years. While it would have been easy to overlook her because of age, God gives her a part to play in the story. She becomes their messenger, carrying word of the fulfillment of God’s promise to all of Jerusalem.

Ushered into the Temple by the Spirit is Simeon, who had been promised by God that he would stay around till the coming of the Lord’s Messiah. He takes the fulfillment of God’s promise into his arms and speaks the words God has put on his heart. It is a prophecy of fearful power for the babe and world. God allows those who might be dismissed as of no consequence – in this case because of the years they have lived – to play a leading role in the Messiah’s mission. They are not diminished in the sight of God but are lifted up higher than anyone who still possesses the youth and energy that the world puts such store in.

Age should not be held against us. Because God doesn’t hold it against us. God will use everyone in any ways, in all ways that they see fit. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Jim