

Presentation of the Lord

The gospel reading for today's feast describes a meeting between a young couple and their infant child and two people who were well on in years, Simeon and Anna.

Simeon's response when he met the infant Jesus was to pray; he praised God. His prayer has become part of the official prayer of the church and is prayed every night by those who pray Night Prayer.

Anna's response on meeting the child Jesus was to speak about Jesus to others, especially to those who were waiting for God to visit them in a special way.

Simeon's meeting with Jesus and his parents led him to look upwards towards God in prayer; Anna's meeting with Jesus and his parents led her to look outwards towards others in witness.

Simeon and Anna each have something to say to us about how to receive the Lord. We too are called to respond to the Lord's coming to us as light of the world, in the same two-fold way, in prayer and in witness. We praise God, we thank God, in prayer for the gift of his Son, the light to enlighten all people, and we also allow that light to shine through us before others, by witnessing to the Lord in the way that we live, by what we say and do.

The Lord who entered the temple in Jerusalem as the light of the world has entered and is entering all our lives; today we look to Simeon and Anna to show us how best to respond to his gracious coming.