**Daily Prayer & Encouragement Tuesday 22nd December**

Luke 2

At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God.

If the girls had been born boys, we would have named them Rupert and Marmaduke. Or so I tell them. Sarah corrects me and tells them that one of them would be a Simeon. Well, she's not right, but I can see the attraction. Simeon is one of the Bible's lesser known heroes; someone who spent his life watching and waiting. We all know – especially writing this hours after the latest government announcement – that waiting can test the patience of us all.

But watching and waiting aren't passive ways of whiling away time; they are active, energetic, character building activities. Simeon used the time to cultivate his righteousness and had become devout. His watching, waiting and was eager. He was alert enough to fulfil his lifetime's ambition with a glimpse of Jesus. Extraordinary when you consider that the prophecy he was waiting to be fulfilled had been silent for 400 years!

These are, as is frequently stated, unprecedented times. We are waiting – for a vaccine, to see family and friends, to open presents, to return to school, for businesses to re-open, for Brexit to be concluded, for England to win the World Cup for (…fill in the sport), for 2021 to start. And yet, easy as it is to wish away 2020 and hibernate until the green shoots of Spring appear; eagerly watching and waiting - focusing on Jesus will strengthen our relationship with our Abba Father, and, importantly, help us to model what heaven on earth looks like.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4y6w7s9gWNA>

*Thank you, Jesus, that you are the light of all nations. Thank you that you live in us by your Holy Spirit. Speak life to us, embolden us, encourage and protect us today, so that we shine with the light of your glory, for your kingdom and your glory's sake. Amen.*

Christopher Pix

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