

CHRISTMAS AT ENCOUNTER**STAY WITH IT**

Luke 2:22 – 38

Pastor Brian Rayburn

December 14/15, 2019

MESSAGE NOTES

Simeon is the first to recognize:

1. God's plan would be different than they had imagined.
2. God's plan would only come to completion through conflict.

Anna reminds us that the world doesn't have to be perfect to find peace!

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing!"

Push — Expectations

— Yours

— Others

Pull — Coming After

— Worried about

— Planning for

— Anxious about

A Roadmap to Waiting:

1. Start and finish the other stuff early.
2. Give gifts that nurture faith and are based in need.
3. Make a plan to pull away.
4. Have / Make a ritual .

You should live lives of quiet watchfulness, until God would come to you. — William Barclay

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Name something that sticks out to you about this week's sermon.
- What is a holiday tradition you or your family have that helps you remember the meaning of Christmas?
- What are your most likely reasons to get distracted and miss time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas? (i.e. cooking for the family, buying and wrapping presents)
- Who do you identify with more in Luke 2, Simeon or Anna? Why?
- Why is "waiting" or finding a time apart from activity so difficult during the holiday season?
- Brian described things that "push" us and "pull" us in the Christmas season. What are yours?
- Brian suggested a few ways to "wait" this season. Which of these do you already do or will you try this year?