Wednesday, February 4, 2015

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MEDITATION



"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen

your salvation,

which you have

prepared in the

Josh Tucker Pastor St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of

many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." Luke 2:29-35

> Grace to you and peace in the name of the one who is the light of the world: Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

> Just a few days ago on Monday we celebrated a festival day in the church year when our Lord was presented in the temple. Forty days after Jesus' birth, we recognize as the day of the Presentation of our Lord - a time when Mary and Joseph presented the baby Jesus in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. It is during their time in the temple that a prophetess named Anna began to speak of the redemption of Israel when she saw the young child, Jesus. There was also a righteous and devout man named Simeon who was

guided by the Holy Spirit to the temple to see the child. God had spoken to Simeon and it had been revealed to him that he would not die until he saw the Messiah. When Simeon saw the holy family in the temple, he greeted them and immediately broke out into this song as he took the child, Jesus, in his arms. We see the recording of Simeon's song in this second chapter of Luke's gospel.

In his song, Simeon described the coming of Jesus in a prophetic way saying that in sending his son, Jesus, God has sent salvation to all people. For as it was proclaimed by God to Simeon, he knew the baby Jesus as the source of revealed light that would shine forth the love and the promises of God to all the nations. Now that Simeon too had seen salvation with his own eyes in Jesus, he knew that his life was now complete and God could now dismiss him.

I wonder how, as Jesus was presented for all the world to see as salvation, we might take advantage of opportunities to continue to present Jesus to others. That is, can we present Jesus in the very same way as a light to all people and as the promise of salvation to those who haven't heard the good news?

Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented in the temple as the light of salvation. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by thesame Jesus Christ; and may we be bold enough in our faith and in our witness to present your only Son our Lord to others as the promise of your salvation. It is in his name we pray. Amen.

Red and White Ball

Get your tickets for the 7th annual Red and White Valentine Ball to be held Saturday, Feb. 14, from 7 p.m.-12 midnight at Bynum Chapel Family Life Center, corner of Cansler and Ellis Streets. Donation ticketrs are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Semi-formal, fashion show, door prizes, refreshments and music with DJ Tony Cutlass. Contact Andrew (Bubba) Brown at 704-772-5129 or 704-730-0027 or any member for tickets.

Breakfast fundraiser

A breakfast fundraiser for Hannah Wyte, ECU International student volunteer to Thailand this summer, will be held Feb. 14 from 7-10 a.m. at Patterson Grove Baptist Church Family Center. The public is invited.

Fellowship & Faith

Church Service Directory

KINGS MOUNTAIN

Advent Lutheran Church, NALC Member Life Enrichment Center 701 E. Gold St.

Anew Beginning Baptist Church 415 Dixon School Rd. 704-473-1372

Ardent Life Church 420 Branch Street 704-739-7700

Arise Church Kings Mountain YMCA 211 Cleveland Ave.

Bethlehem Baptist Church 1017 Bethlehem Road 704-739-7487

Boyce Memorial ARP Church Edgemont Drive 704-739-4917

Burning Bush House of God 310 Long Branch Rd (KM)

Calvary Way Holiness Church 1017 Second Street Pastor Clifton Morgan

Christian Freedom Southern Baptist Church 246 Range Road 704-739-4152

Christ The King Catholic Church 714 Stone Street 704-487-7697

Church at Kings Mountain 108 E. Mountain St. (KM Women's Club Bldg.) 704-739-1323

Cornerstone Church Of God 202 Margrace Road 704-739-3773

Cornerstone Independent · **Baptist** 107 Range Road 704-737-0477

Crowders Mountain Baptist 125 Mayberry Lane 704-739-0310

David Baptist Church 2300 David Baptist Church Road 704-739-4555

Dixon Presbyterian Church

Kings Mountain Baptist

101 W. Mountain Street, Kings Mountain

First Church of the Nazarene 121 Countryside Road 704-734-1143

First Presbyterian Church 111 E. King Street 704-739-8072

First Wesleyan Church 505 N. Piedmont Avenue 704-739-4266

Galilee United Methodist 117 Galilee Church Road

Methodist Church 830 Church Street 704-739-6000

Harvest Baptist Church 144 Ware Road 704-734-0714

Kings Mountain Baptist Church 101 W. Mountain Street 704-739-2516

122 El-bethel Road

Emmanuel Independent Baptist Church 602 Canterbury Road 704-739-9939

Faith Ablaze Church 1128 S. York Road 704-739-8496

El Bethel United

704-739-9174

Methodist Church

Faith Baptist Church

Grace United

