



Week beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>

## **Faith that Endures**

### Opening Questions

- Is there anyone you admire or look up to whose faith has endured through many seasons? (known personally or through reading about them)
- What helps you to keep going when you have a long wait for something?

### Getting into the text

#### **Read Luke 2:22-40**

- Why did Mary and Joseph go to the temple that day?
- Looking at the text, how would you describe Simeon?
- How did he know that he was meeting the Messiah when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to him?
- What were the joys and warnings expressed in Simeon's prophecy?

- In verse 38, as soon as Anna saw Jesus, what are two things she does immediately in response?

### Applying the Bible to your life

- What do you think sustained Simeon and Anna during their years of waiting?
- Are there any spiritual practices which have helped you to hold firm in your faith over the years? Is there anything that you have let slip which you could take up again? Or is there something new you might try?
- Simeon was led by the Spirit. How can you become more aware of the Holy Spirit's guiding and leading in your life?

### Something to pray about

Psalms 27:14 says, '**Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.**'

- Offer to God any situations in your life where you are waiting for him to act or show you a way forward.
- Ask God to show you what he wants you to do this year to help you to grow deeper roots in him – as individuals and as a church.
- Pray for the elderly people struggling to maintain their lives in this country and in areas of conflict like Ukraine, Sudan and Gaza. Ask God to bring them comfort and the resources they need to keep going.