Tithes and Offerings







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CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



Order of Worship November 30, 2025 First Sunday of Advent

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome
Call and Response
Worship in Song

Lighting of the Christ Candle
Worship in Song

We Listen to the Word

Sermon: "Thanking God"

We Come to the Table

Prayer of Confession and Consecration
The Lord's Prayer
We Eat and Drink Together
We Celebrate the Eucharist in Song
Prayer

We Go to Live in the Reign of God

Community Life
Doxology
Blessing and Sending

Words to music, responsive readings and The Lord's Prayer will be on the screen







Doggy Bag-

Some questions to chew on:



- 1. What has been your experience of Advent? Did you ever have an Advent calendar, wreath, or another tradition that helped you and your family prepare for Christmas?
- 2. Would you consider yourself to be a person who is open? If not, how would you describe yourself? Why is openness a key trait of faith?
- 3. What stands out to you in the story of Simeon and Anna? What do you think people thought of them?
- 4. What are ways that our hearts become calloused? How does that affect our faith and openness to God?
- 5. Has Christmas become old to you? Are you just surviving? How do you keep the wonder and amazement of Jesus' birth fresh and alive in your life?
- 6. How do you remain attentive and available to God? Why are these two things important?
- 7. Is there an area of life where it feels difficult to trust in God's timeline? Is there an area of life where hope is difficult right now? What can you learn from Simeon and Anna?
- 8. This Advent, will you be open to God doing something new?

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you. Or you can fill one

out online.



If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/Pastor Kris about your relationship with Christ, please email pastorkris@tablelifechurch.org or call 717-774-6444

Opening Christmas Week #1: Opening Hope Pastor Kris Beckert

What is Advent?

•	"Advent" comes from Latin adventus =
•	Christmas was celebrated on December 25 since 336 AD
•	Christians began a preparation time of fasting, praying, and Scripture reading before Christmas
•	In the 9th century, the Church established Advent as the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas, with the four themes of,, and
Adve	ent is a reminder to be
1.	When Jesus came, most people were not
•	They missed him even though there were over 300

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots" (Isaiah 11:1)

- They missed him because they wanted the messiah to
- They missed him because they were not open to

2. When Jesus came, some people were

• Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, shepherds

Simeon and Anna

Luke 2:25-28, 36-38 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God... ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

What made Simeon and Anna open?

1. They kept from becoming _____

Matthew 13:13-15 This is why I speak to them in parables:

"Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. ¹⁴ In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. ¹⁵ For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

A callus forms throughA callus forms to	
Proverbs 13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick.	
2. They were &	
 Simeon listened to the prompting of (v.27) 	
 Anna stayed in the temple and (v.37) 	
3. They left the timeline to	

Matthew 13:16-17 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷ For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

Big Idea:			