

Chris Murphy

December 31st, 2023

Scripture: Luke 2: 22-38 NRSV

Sermon Title: Senior Prophets

Prayer...

Introduction:

Summarize career in ministry and reflect on how in this season I am enjoying the intergenerational nature of my ministry. About 1/3rd of my ministry focuses on relationships with people are retired. I learn from retired people how to age gracefully and how to empower younger generations.

One of the beautiful things about the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus is that the Gospel writers intentionally include stories with different age groups in mind.

Summarize Story of Simeon and Anna.

What can we learn from these senior prophets?

- Empower Young People
- Devotion to Church
- Redemption through Jesus

And then it is winter- Poem

You know time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems like yesterday that I was young, just married, and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all those years went.

I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is...the winter of my life, and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years

go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those “older people” were years away from me and that winter was so far off I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey...they move slower and I see an older person in myself now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me... but, I see the great change... Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore...it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will...I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so...now I enter this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last...this I know, that when it's over on this earth...it's not over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are also many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can TODAY, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, LIVE FOR TODAY and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things you have done for them in all the years past!!

“Life” is a GIFT to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one. (Good words for all ages to reflect on).

Some thoughts on what I learned from **Armond Kalesse**. Armond taught me about spiritual formation. Devotion to God. He was a humble leader who helped lead Friendsview at a critical time in its history.

Armond was also very kind to me. He prayed for me. He showed me of the importance of encouraging people and living with gratitude to God

for every day of life. In 2024, may we be a person of gratitude. May we live like Armond and others who treasure life well. (Close in Prayer)

Luke 2:22-38

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), 24 and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.[a] 27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon[b] came into the

temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, 28 Simeon[c] took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

29 “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word,

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.”

33 And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34 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 35 so that the inner

thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

36 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child[d] to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.