

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

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February 2, 2024 • Presentation of the Lord • Luke 2:22-40

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## God's Messengers

*Jesus is born in Bethlehem, and following Jewish law, he is circumcised eight days later. While Mary and Joseph are at the Temple for this ritual, they encounter two people. Simeon is a very old and devoted man. God has promised him that he would not die until he had set eyes on the Christ. Anna is an elderly prophetess. They both proclaimed Jesus as Israel's salvation.*

On the night of Jesus' birth, the shepherds came to the stable to see if the message they received from the angels was true. How wonderful it must have been for Mary to hear their amazing story. Eight days later, when Jesus is taken to be circumcised, two others proclaim Jesus' greatness. Simeon and Anna and the shepherds reaffirmed for Mary the message to which she had said yes to nine months earlier.

Jesus' mother was certainly a woman of faith, but I wonder what went through her mind when Joseph told her there was no room for them at the inns. She must have been concerned about giving birth to the future Messiah in a stable. No doubt, Joseph made the space as clean and comfortable as possible. But Mary was a first-time mom, away from her family in a strange town; she must have been afraid and confused.

In the afterglow of giving birth, Mary undoubtedly forgot all of her concerns. Certainly her faith was reaffirmed as she looked at her beautiful baby boy. However, God, being a gracious God, also sent

the shepherds, Simeon, and Anna so they could confirm the message, leaving no doubt in Mary's mind that all was well.

God may not send shepherds or prophets, but if we keep our eyes and ears open we may well discover God's messengers in our own life, people who affirm our faith and let us know that all is well. Like Mary, we need to remember those moments, reflecting on them often in our hearts, especially in times when our faith needs a lift.

### FAMILY RESPONSE

As a family, talk about who are, or have been, the angels and messengers in your life.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

How have your children been God's messenger to you? What have they taught you about God or your faith?