2024 February Meditation Text – European Province

Fidelity and Trust

A painting of Rembrandt shows the moment when the elderly Simeon took the infant Jesus into his arms recognising in this tiny child fulfilment of the promise made to him and to all who were looking forward to God’s coming.

“Now, Lord, you can let your servant go in peace… because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see”.

Simeon had waited in patient hope, and now, in old age, and perhaps with eyesight failing as seemingly depicted by the artist, he holds what he has been waiting for - God’s promise in the form of this tiny, helpless baby.

Anna, an eighty-four-year-old widow, had also been waiting for God to fulfil the promise of the Messiah. Her constant fidelity and trust led her to to recognise God’s promises being fulfilled in this little child.

Whether we are in the evening of our lives like Simeon and Anna, or whether we have an unknown future, as it must surely have been for Mary and Joseph, perhaps we could at this time renew our trust in a God who has taken on our humanity and who relies on us to witness to his presence and saving power.

Looking back over the Christmas season, have we met people like Simeon and Anna who, by their fidelity and patient trust, have helped us to recognise God’s presence?