

Hope

- A confident expectation of a better future
- Rooted in conviction that God is working all things together for the good of those who love Him
- Based on the historical reality of the resurrection of Jesus

Advent
Week One:
Hope



The Temple



Advent
Week One:
Hope



STONEBRIDGE
CHURCH

Mark 13:24-27

- **13.24-27:** Jesus' 2nd coming
 - Accompanied by impossible to miss cosmic signs
- **13.28-31:** Destruction of the Temple
 - Will happen before the disciples die
- **13.32-37:** Posture as we await the 2nd coming
 - Be on guard – 'be seeing'
 - Be alert – 'be awake'
 - Watch – 'be vigilant'

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Luke 2:36-38

- 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, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 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.

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Anna

- **Prophet** – the Holy Spirit revealed Jesus' identity to her and she shared that truth with others
- **Where she waited** – in the Temple; in the presence of God
- **What she did while waiting** – worshipped, prayed, fasted; engaged with God in worship and intercession
- **Very old** –conservatively 63 years at the Temple; waited a very long time

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Living Like Anna Requires Courageous Commitment

Worship –

- **Because He is worthy** – always can worship God for His character and the Cross
- **Worship draw us near** to the Father of Compassion and the God of All Comfort (2Cor 1.3-4)

Prayer –

- **Persistence** – keep asking, seeking and knocking; Lk 18.1-8
- **Is effective** – Rev 8.3-5; prayers are 'returned' to earth as God's action

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