PASTOR'S SERMON OUTLINE · WEEK 1

Hope: A State of Anticipation

First Sunday of Advent · Sunday, November 29, 2026 · About a 20-minute message

A framework to shape your own message, not a manuscript. Bring your own study, stories, and voice; use what serves your people. **[BOB: review the whole outline for theological emphasis.]**

BIG IDEA

> *Advent hope is not wishful thinking but confident anticipation: the God who kept His promise in Bethlehem lives in us by His Spirit and will keep His promise to return.*

[BOB: review the big-idea wording.]

MAIN TEXT · LUKE 2:25–32 (ESV)

Read the full passage aloud. Key verses:

> *"Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him."* (v. 25)
>
> *"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."* (vv. 29–32)

SUGGESTED TIMING · ABOUT 20 MINUTES

Opening illustration	Read Luke 2:25–32	Movement 1 · Christ with us	Movement 2 · Christ in us	Movement 3 · Christ coming back for us	Closing response & first candle
3 MIN	2 MIN	4 MIN	4 MIN	4 MIN	3 MIN

OPENING ILLUSTRATION · 3 MIN

Tell a short, true story about waiting with eager expectation: a child counting down to Christmas, a family at the airport arrivals gate, a long-awaited phone call. Then bridge to Simeon, who spent years waiting on one promise from God.

[PASTOR] Your story:

MOVEMENT 1 · 4 MIN Anticipation Fulfilled: Christ with Us

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE · GALATIANS 4:4–5 (ESV)

> *"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."*

TEACHING POINTS

- Simeon's hope rested on a promise, not a feeling: "according to your word" (v. 29).
- God keeps His word on His timetable. After centuries of waiting, "the fullness of time" came, and Simeon held the promise in his arms (v. 28).
- Our hope is a Person, not an idea: "my eyes have seen your salvation" (v. 30). Immanuel, God with us.

APPLICATION **Name one promise of God you are waiting on. What He did at Bethlehem is reason to trust Him with it.**

[BOB: review the three teaching points in each movement, especially how Movement 2 connects the Spirit "upon" Simeon to the indwelling Spirit today.]

MOVEMENT 2 · 4 MIN Hope Alive Now: Christ in Us

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE · COLOSSIANS 1:27 (ESV)

> *"...this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."*

TEACHING POINTS

- Simeon did not wait alone: the Holy Spirit was upon him, revealed God's promise to him, and led him to the temple (vv. 25–27).
- Today Christ lives in every believer by His Spirit: "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Hope is something we have now, not only something we wait for.
- The Spirit keeps hope alive in hard seasons: "by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" (Romans 15:13).

APPLICATION **Where do you need the Spirit's hope this week instead of trying to manufacture your own? Make room for Him in daily Scripture and prayer.**

MOVEMENT 3 · 4 MIN Living Expectantly: Christ Coming Back for Us

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE · TITUS 2:11–13 (ESV)

> *"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."*

TEACHING POINTS

- Simeon saw Christ's first coming; we wait for His return. The church still lives in a state of anticipation.
- Expectant waiting is active, not idle: grace is "training us… to live… godly lives in the present age" (Titus 2:12).
- Hope waits with patience (Romans 8:25) and looks outward. Simeon called Jesus "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" (v. 32), good news for everyone.

APPLICATION **Live this week like someone who expects Jesus: choose one habit to begin and one person to invite into hope.**

CLOSING RESPONSE & FIRST CANDLE · 3 MIN

- Invite a moment of quiet: "What are you waiting on God for this Advent?"
- Light the first Advent candle, often called the Hope candle (some traditions call it the Prophecy candle). Have a family or reader light it while someone reads Luke 2:30–32 or Isaiah 9:2. **[BOB: confirm the candle name you prefer.]**
- Pray that God would fill your church with hope as you wait together. Song suggestion: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

A NATURAL MENTION *Before or after the closing prayer, in your own words:*

"Our church is reading ARRIVAL together this Advent; grab a copy at alongtheway121.com."

Small groups can use the free Group Discussion Guide from the Church Advent Kit at www.alongtheway121.com. **[BOB: review this mention.]**