Sermon: based on Luke 2.29-32

Do you make New Year resolutions anymore? If so, any to tell? Mine is to learn Te Reo in 2022.

No idea yet whether or not I will be able to keep this promise…, and if I do how much it will help, but there are echoes of Simeon’s Song.

[1] God keeps promises (**Now, Lord, you have kept your promise** v29)

Said this before: God keeps promises – to Noah, to Abraham, to Moses, to Israel (Messiah). Jesus makes a promise to be with us always (Mt 28.20: **And I will be with you always, to the end of the age**).

These promises are much more significant than mine or yours and affect the whole world.

At a time of promises, kept or broken, it is good to remember what kind of God we worship.

[2] We see salvation in Jesus (**with my own eyes I have seen your salvation** v30)

Christmas Romantic films – you know who’s going to fall for whom at the start, though they do not.

What did Simeon see at the start? A baby. Even though Mary and Joseph ‘knew’, they were still amazed (**The child’s father and mother were amazed at the things Simeon said about him** v33)!

What did Simeon see? Something deeper. Sometimes things click into place, don’t they? For Simeon this was because he had been looking for this sign for years. How much do we look for signs of God?

[3] Jews & Gentiles benefit (**your salvation which you’ve prepared in the presence of all peoples** v31)

We live in a world where we separate people onto groups. Nations, citizens & non-citizens, those vaccinated & those not, Maori & Pakeha, church & non-church, male & female, need van & don’t, children & adults, etc. Some of this is helpful, but much is used negatively, even abusively.

In Jesus’ day, ever since Abraham, Israel was God’s chosen people, the rest were Gentiles.

Romans mainly wanted all to recognise Emperor and the Roman gods, Jews were excepted because their faith was ancient and they were troublesome! Not so Christians, whose faith was new, and were seen as different from Jews, so they were persecuted.

Here Simeon recognises what is first realised in Isaiah, that God is for all nations, no distinction.

This is something we all need to hear.

God keeps promises, including salvation for all in Jesus. At a New Tear this is worth remembering.