

### ***Liturgical Date: Year B, Christmas 1, December 27th, 2020***

**Presenter** Doug Hewitt  
**Focus Reading** Luke 2:22-40  
**Message** 9 minutes 0 seconds    **"Reclaiming faith in times of stress."**

#### **Discussion Starters**

1. How do god's promises to Israelites returning from exile relate to conflicts today in the Holy Land?
2. Are there lessons for us to learn in sharing our land with First Nation's people here long before us?
3. Can we learn from a box for the poor on Boxing day? Do we place a Christmas Bowl on our table?
4. How could we today make more of the tradition of observing saint's days in the calendar?

#### **Other Lectionary readings for the day**

**Isaiah 61:10-62:3** Using vivid imagery, the prophet both affirms the Lord God's Salvation and vindication of Jerusalem and anticipates its full realization.

**Psalms 148** The Psalmist beseeches all of creation (even sea creatures and inanimate objects) and all of humanity (even political rulers who typically resist) to praise the Lord for the Lord's creativity and glory.

**Galatians 4:4-7** In a complex argument, Paul affirms that by sending the Son into the world God has established new relationships between the church to mature faith with a new relationship to God.

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**All Age Message** Sue Pepper    **"A memorable day"**  
**Approx. Length** 4 minutes 10 seconds  
**Precis of AAM**

In the stores Christmas ends on the night of 24<sup>th</sup> when all the decorations are taken down ready for the Boxing Day sales. However, for Christians, Christmas is never over. 8 days after the birth, Mary and Joseph travel to Jerusalem to the temple and in the temple, they hear the stories of Simeon and Anna and their expectations and what they have been waiting for as God had promised. The baby is dedicated to God and given his name 'Jesus', who as God promised is with us until this day.

**Resources**    **Uniting in Worship (Blue Book)** Psalm 149 – not included so look up in a Bible.

#### **Mr Doug Hewitt**

Member of Hamilton Wesley Uniting Church in The Hunter Presbytery, plus its Social justice Committee; active in Christians for Peace Newcastle, the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change and Synod Climate Change Strategy Group. Also belong to the Hunter Ecumenical Social Justice Group; passionate about achieving wider recognition of the impact of climate change and reversing national policies; active in ICAN and its advocacy of the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.