

Once upon a time, the world seemed to be a really dark place. Many people felt lost, lonely and scared.

God promised to send someone to save his people. Someone who would help and comfort and guide his people. Someone who would be like a bright light shining in the darkness.

Anna was an old lady whose life had been very hard. She knew what it was like to feel that the world was a very dark place. So she spent all her time in the Temple, where she could stay close to God.

Simeon was a man who waited and waited. He trusted God's promises. Simeon never stopped hoping that, one day, he would see God's light shining in the darkness. One day, he would see who God would send to save his people.

Well, one day, Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus to the Temple, to thank God for him. And that very day, God told Simeon to go to the Temple. When Simeon saw Jesus, he knew straight away that this baby had been sent by God to save his people. It was as if Simeon could see God's glorious light shining from Jesus, taking away all the darkness in the world.

Simeon praised God. He held the baby Jesus in his arms and told Mary and Joseph that this baby was God's light shining in the world.

Of course, Anna was at the Temple that day, too, because Anna was always at the Temple. She came along just at that moment. She heard what Simeon said. And because Anna stayed so close to God all the

time, talking to him and listening to him, she knew straight away that what Simeon said was true. She knew that he was speaking God's words.

Anna praised God. And she passed on the good news to everyone who was waiting for God to save his people.

Today, the world still seems to be a really dark place at times. Sometimes we feel sad or lonely. Sometimes we're scared. Sometimes we just don't know what to do.

But the truth is that we aren't on our own and we don't need to be afraid.

Jesus shines his light into the darkness of our world, and he has promised never to leave us.

We can stay close to him, like Anna did, by praying and reading the Bible and spending time with other Christians.

And we can trust God's promises, like Simeon did. We can trust him to forgive us when we say sorry for getting things wrong. We can trust him to send his Holy Spirit to help us and guide us. We can trust him to answer when we pray.

And then, when we see all of the amazing things that God does for us, let's not forget to praise him, just like Simeon and Anna did - and let's make sure that we pass on the good news to other people, just like they did, too.