

Anna and Simeon

A young mother
And her resigned husband
Inexperienced and ordinary folk
Whose lives have been turned upside-down
By the birth of their child
And the strange trail of visitors
that have been to kneel before him
present the child in the temple
and in their dreaming of dreams for the child
they praise God

**We thank you for the gift of Jesus
born tiny and vulnerable
and cradled in our arms
inspiring us to dream dreams**

An older man,
a stranger in the temple
not a rabbi or a priest
but a devout, spirit filled man
takes a tiny baby in his arms
and with a tear in his eye
knows he has seen God's promise
for the salvation of all peoples
and as his life draws to its fulfilment
he praises God

**We thank you for the gift of Jesus
a surprise and a delight
startling us to work creatively
for justice and peace**

An older woman
a regular in the temple
not a rabbi or priest
but a widow and a prophet
astonishes the babies parents
as the light sparks in her eyes
recognising God's unconventional answer
to her fasting and praying
and in her exuberance and joy
she praises God

**We thank you for the gift of Jesus
aware that this is no ordinary gift
but the invitation to join a journey
towards crucifixion and resurrection.**

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