

KNOW YOUR FAITH XXV

First Sunday of Christmas – Nunc Dimittis

Not too many decades past, once communion had been served and the worship service was coming to a conclusion and before the LBW's "Thank the Lord," the congregation often sang a song titled "*The Nunc Dimittis*" which is Latin for *now we leave or depart*. It is also known as "Simeon's Song" created by the writer of the gospel of Luke portraying the joy and peace that the elderly Simeon must have felt in seeing the infant Jesus.

In ancient times and in various cultures, first born children were often presented for sacrifice to the gods. However, in the writings of Moses (Numbers 18:16) instead of death, the parents were to present a redemption price and an animal sacrifice as a substitute. Mary and Joseph being poor purchased either two turtledoves or two pigeons to be offered up to Yahweh. Simeon's prophesy about Jesus suggests that Jesus's life and teachings will be a dividing event in the hearts of people. So it often is with those sent from God.

We are still in the Christmas season until January 6th which gives us the 12 days of Christmas. The color remains *white* with its many representation of purity, light, and the brightness of God's Word.