

Living Water Fellowship

4th Sunday in Advent - 18th December 2022

COME TO JESUS

SONG: Angels We Have Heard on High

WELCOME and PRAYER OF THE DAY:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Luke 1:39-55

³⁹A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town ⁴⁰where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴²Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. ⁴³Why am I so honoured, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? ⁴⁴When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

⁴⁶Mary responded,

"Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. ⁴⁷How my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour!

⁴⁸For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

⁴⁹For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me.

⁵⁰He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him.

⁵¹His mighty arm has done tremendous things!

He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.

⁵²He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away with empty hands.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel and remembered to be merciful.

⁵⁵For he made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever."

CHILDREN'S TIME:

FAITH CHAT:

1. What about Christmas brings you joy?
2. Who brings joy to your journey when circumstances are confusing or difficult?

THE MESSAGE: *EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS! FEEL THE JOY*

SONG: Even So Come

PRAYERS:

The Communion:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: Offering (Christmas) (Paul Baloche)

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

**† _____, child of God,
May you give birth to the presence of Jesus growing in you!
Amen.**

Announcements:

SONG: Happy Happy Day (Colin Buchanan)

SHOW HIS LOVE

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Luke 1:39-55. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you hear God say to you as you read it a few times to yourself? What do you find to be most important in the texts? Why?
2. Describe the setting of Luke 1:39-45. What do you think this experience meant to both women? Why? What is the significance of each statement in Elizabeth's greeting to Mary (vv. 42-45)? How did Mary respond to her greeting?
3. How does Elizabeth define Mary's blessedness? Could she say that of you?
4. What is the connection between John leaping in Elizabeth's womb & her being filled with the Holy Spirit?
5. In verses 49-50, Mary rejoiced in God's character. What specific attributes of God does Mary praise? How might reflecting on God's character affect how you worship?
6. What contrasts does Mary draw in her song? Why are these important? What do the contrasts tell you about how God engages with humanity?
7. What is Mary revealing about herself & her self-understanding when she identifies God as "my Saviour"? Why is this important?
8. Explain each of the 6 descriptions found in vs. 51-53 that describe how God shows mercy to those who fear Him (v. 50).
9. Why do you think Luke includes Mary's song here & Zechariah's song in vs. 67-79?
10. Mary declares that what God is doing through her is a fulfillment of ancient promises to God's people. What promises do I believe God will fulfill in my life & how does my belief influence my daily walk with God? How will those promises have an impact on the wider world around me?
11. At this moment, does your heart align with Mary's heart in declaring, "*My soul magnifies the Lord, & my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...*"? Why/why not? Reflect on Mary's song measured against your life. Could you echo her praise for what God is doing in you? Why/why not?