

## **Advent Week 3: Mary's Song**

Pastor Todd Keller  
December 17, 2023

### **Opening Discussion**

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

### **Prayer**

Dear God,

In this season of Advent, we pause to reflect on joy. Joy is not found in the twinkling lights, the giving of gifts, or the singing of songs. Joy is only found in You.

Sometimes, amid our busy lives, joy can be hard to find. Surrounded by deadlines, worries, and distractions, we can easily forget the true source of our joy.

As we draw near to you, help us remember that this joy we have found is not simply for us. Remind us that we are called to be beacons of joy for those around us.

Amen

### **Scripture**

Read together Luke 1:46-55

Mary responded,

"Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.  
How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!  
For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,  
and from now on all generations will call me  
blessed.  
For the Mighty One is holy,  
and he has done great things for me.  
He shows mercy from generation to generation  
to all who fear him.  
His mighty arm has done tremendous things!  
He has scattered the proud and haughty  
ones.

He has brought down princes from their  
thrones  
and exalted the humble.  
He has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away with empty hands.  
He has helped his servant Israel  
and remembered to be merciful.  
For he made this promise to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his children forever."

### **Thought #1: Mary's Song Embodies & Emboldens the Nobodies**

Pastor Todd reminded us of Mary's station and situation. She was a poor, teenage woman who was pregnant outside of wedlock. The cultural odds couldn't have been more stacked against her! And yet, her song wasn't one of lament or fear but one of praise, certainty, and rejoicing.

While she may not have understood the scope, Mary understood the commitment the call of being the mother of Jesus required. We, like Mary, can easily find the odds stacked against us. It's easy to feel fearful and discounted. However, the hope of Christ changes that.

How does the hope of Christ transform your perspective on your identity? With Mary, whom the world saw as an unwed teenage mother, God used her to usher in the savior of the world. How does this hope influence your own sense of worth, purpose, and identity?

In what circumstances have you felt like a "nobody" by the world's standard? How has the hope of Christ empowered you to rise above, finding purpose and direction?

### **Thought #2: Mary's Song is an Overflow of Praise**

Mary was invited to participate in the greatest story. She wasn't forced or coerced — she was given the opportunity to partner with her Heavenly Father. And despite the implication and the potential repercussions, she responded with a resounding "YES". In Mary's song, we find that she responds with JOY and PRAISE to this invitation. Her adoration and devotion are

clear, but it's not because she doesn't see the pitfalls and the complications.

Have you encountered a time in your walk with Jesus, either past or present, where you've felt an invitation to participate from the Lord? Were there potential complications or concerns? How did you respond?

Have you had a time in your life where you've felt an overflow of praise, despite the potential for hardship ahead? In moments of adversity, why do you think praising the Lord is encouraged or important? How does praising God amidst uncertain situations impact our perspective, faith, and relationship with Him?

Take time to share personal experiences or stories where praising God during hardships brought strength, encouragement, or a sense of peace.

### **Thought #3: Mary's Song Reminds Us of the Hope of Christ**

Revisit Luke 1:46-55

In this passage, Mary's words give us a picture of what it means to carry the hope of Christ.

For those who are ignored —> He takes notice of them

For those who are lacking —> He blesses them

For those who are vulnerable —> He protects them

For those who are empty —> He provides for them

For those who are lowly —> He lifts them

Just as Mary was a carrier of the hope of Jesus, we are too! We can carry this hope to our friends, family, and neighbors.

What does it mean for you to carry the hope of Christ? How has that hope directly impacted your own life? Where do you see the need for

the hope of Christ in the world around you? How can you carry that hope to your community, workplace, or social circles? How can your own life serve as a testament to the hope you've found in Christ? Share this with your group.

### **Response:**

As a group, discuss how you can respond to the invitation to participate. Pastor Todd shared several upcoming opportunities to very tangibly carry the hope of Christ to those around us.

Sunday, January 21 - New Groups booklet is available - Find a place to plug in!

Sunday, February 4 - learn more about partnering with Shelter KC

Superbowl Sunday, February 11 - pack the trailer to support the Salvation Army Outpost food pantry

Friday, February 23 – Community Blood Center - blood drive in Garrett Chapel

April 20th – The Outreach Project - food-packing event for local food banks

2024 - Pray about Mission opportunities in Arizona, Spain, India, Cyprus, Guatemala, Ecuador, The Republic of the Tonga

You may also discuss ways you as a group can participate, either in these events or in your own unique way. We can carry the hope of Jesus into a hurting world in many ways!

Questions for Pastor Todd Keller or Julie Burch regarding your REMIX group?

- Email: Todd [tkeller@collegechurch.com](mailto:tkeller@collegechurch.com)  
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\*\*\*Remember to record your attendance for the week. Thank you.

**How can we pray for each other this week?**

