

Luke 1:26-55

Pastor Matt Pierson

November 27, 2022



SERMON NOTES

Four Cantic Portraits by Kim Thomas

“The four cantic portraits were originally commissioned in 2016 for the Getty Christmas Tour and used on stages as their backdrop. To communicate an image that would read in a large hall, I simplified the portraits by representing them in linoleum block prints. The context required the

artwork be narrow and tall, so with all of these givens, I tried to capture something for each of the four in their faces, as well as show the posture of their heart through their hands.”



Mary’s Song

“When the angel comes and tells the young virgin Mary that she will conceive and give birth to the Messiah, as overwhelming as the information is, rather than a thousand questions, Mary responds with a beautiful song of submission. I portray her mouth open in song and her hands turned upward in submission.”

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”

- Luke 1:46 (ESV)

Good News of Great Joy

The Songs of Advent

Mary’s Song: Luke 1:26-55

My Soul Magnifies the Lord

1. Mary responds to Gabriel’s announcement with obedience and worship.
2. The Magnificat proclaims God’s majesty.
3. The Magnificat proclaims God’s mercy.

The 4 Canticles

- Song of **Mary**: Luke 1:26-55
- Song of **Zechariah**: Luke 1:57-79
- Song of **the angels**: Luke 2:1-14
- Song of **Simeon and Anna**: Luke 2:21-38

“The Old Testament is arranged to point to the future inbreaking of a hope that is beyond human hope, beyond human potential, beyond human striving – and that is the movement of God into territory that is occupied by the forces of darkness. Over these forces, unaided human efforts are in vain. It is God alone who saves us. This is not a movement of earth to heaven, but of heaven to earth – utterly gracious because utterly undeserved.”

- Fleming Rutledge

“We must always remember that union with Christ is possible because of the Son’s descent to earth, not because of our ascent into heaven. The basis of our union with Christ is Christ’s union with us in the incarnation. He became one with us so that we might become one with Him.”

- Kevin DeYoung, *The Hole in Our Holiness*

Intertestamental Period of Israel

- Persian Period: 539-331 B.C.
 - Rebuilding of the Temple: 536-516 B.C.
 - Malachi: ca. 460 B.C.
- Hellenistic Period
 - Alexander the Great: 331-320 B.C.
 - Ptolemaic (Egyptian) Period: 320-198 B.C.
 - Selucid (Syrian) Period: 198-164 B.C.
- Hasmonean (Maccabean) Period: 164-63 B.C.
- Roman Period: 63 B.C. - A.D. 70

“Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.”

- Luke 1:1-4

“Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible.”

- Corrie Ten Boom

“We might think that God wanted simply obedience to a set of rules, whereas He really wants people of a particular sort.”

- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

“The Bible’s first outlandish claim is that there is one God who created our entire universe. If this is true, then believing that Jesus was born of a virgin is not irrational. In fact, believing that God could make the whole universe out of nothing but not believing He could make one baby without a human father would be irrational.”

- Rebecca McLaughlin, *Is Christmas Unbelievable?*

“Christians believe in the virgin birth of Jesus. Atheists believe in the virgin birth of the universe. Choose your miracle.”

- Glen Scrivener

“The grace of God does not find men fit for salvation, but makes them so.”

- Augustine

“Everything is of grace in the Christian life, from the very beginning to the very end.”

- D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“Mercy is God’s favor that holds back from us what we deserve. Grace is God’s favor that gives us what we do not deserve.”

- Rolfe Barnard

“It is by far the most amazing miracle in the whole Bible – far more amazing than the resurrection and more amazing than the creation of the universe. The fact that the infinite, omnipotent, eternal Son of God could become man and join Himself to a human nature forever, so that infinite God became one person with finite man, will remain for eternity the most profound miracle and the most profound mystery in all the universe.”

- Wayne Grudem

Resources for further study

- *Advent: The Once & Future Coming of Jesus Christ* by Fleming Rutledge
- *From the Manger to the Throne: A Theology of Luke* by Benjamin L. Gladd
- *Is Christmas Unbelievable? 4 Questions Everyone Should Ask About the World’s Most Famous Story* by Rebecca McLaughlin
- *Repeat the Sounding Joy: A Daily Advent Devotional on Luke 1-2* by Christopher Ash