



WEEKLY STUDY

Come and Adore - Week Three

We are in the third week of Advent (latin for *arrival*). It's a season of 4 weeks that marks our waiting for the arrival of Jesus. Pay attention this week to how Mary's response to God's angel serves to magnify the glory of God. It made God appear bigger to those who have heard this story for centuries since! How does your response to God's message magnify Jesus?

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for someone who has received hard news this week. Pray that God would be glorified in their response.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 1.39-45 (NKJV)

Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zecchariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ But why is this*

granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ *For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.* ⁴⁵ *Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord. *("Zacharias" is the name used in NKJV. Same person!)*

- Mary had just learned that the sign of her pregnancy with Emmanuel, the Son of God was to be the pregnancy of her much older cousin Elizabeth. So she went “with haste” to check it out. Was there any doubt on the road? Did she almost turn back at any point? Did she plan how to broach the subject with Elizabeth? She persevered down the road and when she arrived, all it took was a greeting. The whole thing was confirmed. The sign was pointing to the truth of God’s plan. Blessed is she who believed. Can you think of a time (recently or long ago) when others pointed out your faithfulness? “Blessed is _____ who believed.”

- **Prayer Prompt: Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” (John 6.29)**
- *God, will you strengthen my faith today? I want the world to see a steadfast believer when they look at me. May my actions align with my faith. Amen.*

TUESDAY: LUKE 1.46-47 (NKJV)

And Mary said:

*“My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.*

- It is hard to imagine that anything we do could make God appear bigger or smaller. God is God after all! But when we, like Mary, humble ourselves and make ourselves appear smaller there is space for others to see God in us. What opportunities are in front of you this week where you can point others to the goodness of God?

- **Prayer Prompt: Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. (Psalm 34.8)**

- God, I confess that I do not always respond to hard news the way that Mary did. I can get stuck in the “How can this be?” phase of my response. May my spirit rejoice in you, my Savior. Amen.

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 1. 48-50 (NKJV)

⁴⁸ For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

⁴⁹ For He who is mighty has done great things for me,
And holy is His name.

⁵⁰ And His mercy is on those who fear Him

- We all want to know that we are seen. And to be seen by our Creator is even more amazing. Mary was overcome by the awareness that she was known by God. God saw her in her lowly state. She wasn't in the headlines. People weren't awaiting news of her next move. But God was doing a great thing in her! Have you ever wondered if God notices you? What great thing might God be doing in you right now?
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- **Prayer Prompt: For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29.11)**
- *Almighty and everlasting God, you know me and hear my prayers. See me in my lowly state. If future generations say anything about me, may they say that I lived for you. Amen.*

THURSDAY: LUKE 1.50-55 (NKJV)

From generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² He has put down the mighty from their thrones,
And exalted the lowly.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich He has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped His servant Israel,
In remembrance of His mercy,

⁵⁵ As He spoke to our fathers,
To Abraham and to his seed forever.”

- These words are part of the song which the church has called The Magnificat. She was calling upon the Old Testament images to describe the scope of what God was doing by sending His Son to be born through her. God was changing everything. Check out Hannah's prayer in [1 Samuel 2.1-10](#). Surely Mary was beginning to grasp the magnitude of her situation. What God was doing through her would change the world. It would turn things upside down. The rich will know what it means to feel empty, and the hungry will have their fill. Where have you seen God bringing about this kind of transformation? In the church? Through a non-profit? Through you?

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- **Prayer Prompt: “There is no one holy like the LORD;
there is no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God. (1 Samuel 2.2)**
 - *Lord God, you are holy and there is no one besides you. You are coming to set all things right in this broken world. Come soon! Come Lord Jesus! Amen.*

FRIDAY: LUKE 1.56 (NIV)

⁵⁶ *And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.*

- Have you ever been away from home for three months or more? There comes a time when your temporary home might feel like your new permanent home. Mary spent time with Elizabeth most likely learning how to get through the challenges of being pregnant. It’s good to have someone with you who has gone through what you are going through. We can assume that Mary stayed until John was born. She went home when the one who would prepare the way for Jesus had been born. Are there places or situations where you are being invited to “remain” for a while so that God can prepare the way for something even better?
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- **Prayer Prompt: No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. (John 15.4)**
- *God, I desire to remain in your presence. My mind and heart are often scattered, so help me to settle into your presence and to abide in you. Amen.*

SATURDAY: 2 CORINTHIANS 12.8-9 (NIV)

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

- One of the reasons that Mary, the mother of Jesus, is so deeply respected in the church is because of her willingness to be made low...for her weakness to be used for God's glory. Is there a weakness in you that exposes the power of Christ? How do you talk about this weakness? Are you ever tempted to hide it?

- **Prayer Prompt: As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust. (Psalm 103.13-14)**
- *God, meet me in my weakness today. Give me courage to share my insufficiencies so that others will see your power in me. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

Reread the Magnificat. What implications does it have for you, your family, your nation, the world today?

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.
⁴⁸ For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;
 For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.
⁴⁹ For He who is mighty has done great things for me,
 And holy is His name.
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 From generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with His arm;
 He has scattered *the* proud in the imagination of their hearts.
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 And exalted *the* lowly.
⁵³ He has filled *the* hungry with good things,
 And *the* rich He has sent away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped His servant Israel,
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