

SERIES: SONGS OF CHRISTMAS
SERMON 1: SONG OF FAITH
LUKE 1:5-25 & LUKE 2:57-80

GETTING STARTED

Growing up, did you or your family have any special Christmas traditions or activities that became meaningful for you?

DIGGING IN

Read Isaiah 40:1-5 and Malachi 4:5-6.

What do these verses say about John's mission? How do you think Zechariah would have felt knowing that his son was going to fulfill these promises (see also Luke 7:28)?

What is the significance of the fact that the Bible has so many prophecies like these that are fulfilled centuries later? How should the reality of fulfilled prophecies encourage your faith?

Read Luke 1:5-25.

What does the angel say about Zechariah's fear? Why had the angel come to Zechariah?

Many people think that true believers in God never doubt. Reread Luke 1:6 and Luke 1:20. Do you see a discrepancy in what these two verses say? How would you resolve the apparent difficulty? What does this say about the faith journey of a believer?

Read Luke 1:57-66. Imagine for a moment what this scene would have been like had Zechariah and Elizabeth not been on the same page. Why is it important for couples to be together in their belief and practice of life with God?

Read Luke 1:76-79. How is the tender mercy (or compassion) of God shown off in John's message? How is the message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins a "compassionate" message?

LIVING IT OUT

This week, let's end our small group meetings by providing a few moments of time alone to reflect personally on your need for the compassion of God. You won't have time to answer every question here, so pick one that catches your attention and spend your time thinking on that one question.

As you prepare for the Christmas season, is there any area of your life where you need forgiveness? Is there any area where you need to experience compassion? Is there anything that is causing you to doubt God's promises or God's goodness or God's care for you? Is there a sense of expectant joy in your life for God's work? Are you serving Jesus joyfully as one who has been rescued from darkness and set free to do good? Close by saying or writing a prayer to God expressing your heart.

These sermon notes are produced each week for further study and discussion in our small groups. If you are interested in joining a small group, please contact Leslie Ann Yell at smallgroups@chathamchurch.org or 545-9589.