

SERIES: SONGS OF CHRISTMAS
SERMON 2: SONG OF BLESSING
LUKE 1:26-56

GETTING STARTED

Some people like surprises; some people don't care for them. Do you like surprises? Why or why not?

DIGGING IN

Read Luke 1:26-36.

Make a list of all the surprises that Mary experienced in this scene. Can you find ten or more?

This will require some speculation, but how do you think this unexpected news would alter Mary's life over the next twelve months, including ways that some people might be perceived as "negative"?

Read Luke 1:39-45.

What was John's "in-the-womb" response to Jesus' approach? What might John's mysterious response teach us about how we should respond to Jesus' presence? How do you think you would respond if he showed up at your door this Christmas?

Read Luke 1:46-56.

In Luke 1:48-49 (below), Mary seems less surprised in these verses than she was in Luke 1:29. She seems to have accepted the reality that God has chosen her to bear the Messiah and embraced this role as a blessing.

48 For behold, **from now on** all generations will call **me** blessed;

49 for he who is mighty has done great things **for me**,
and holy is his name.

Would her life situation immediately look like blessing to the outside world? Why do you think Mary was able to respond in this way (you should see a hint in Luke 1:38)?

LIVING IT OUT

Do you sometimes find it hard to see God's blessings in the midst of life? How does Mary's example encourage us as we respond to our life situations?

In Mary's song, she reminds us that God's past promises to Abraham are now finally being fulfilled in Jesus. Things will be different "from now on." Yet we know that all things in the world are not yet made right. How can God's promises and his faithfulness to keep his promises change the way you view your day-to-day life situations?

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.