

December 1  
Worship | 8:15 and 11am  
Livestream | 11am

**The Christmas  
Songs of Scripture:  
An Exposition of the Canticles  
in Luke 1&2**

**The Magnificat:  
A Song of God's Faithfulness**



# WELCOME

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. We invite you to experience the meaning of the Gospel through this service, which reflects both ancient and modern elements of Christian worship. When we gather as a worshipping community, we enter into a dialogue with the living God. God calls us into worship, we rejoice in the hope of the Gospel, confess our sins, lament the brokenness of our world, give our offerings, and hear God's Word read and preached. We hope that by worshipping with us, you will experience joy and hope from a community of people who love Jesus.

At Lexington Presbyterian Church, for God's glory, we are making disciples of Jesus as we worship, love, and serve.

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General inquiries: [hello@lexpreschurch.com](mailto:hello@lexpreschurch.com)

# LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

\* Congregation, please stand if able

Prelude

## PRAISE

Updates | Following Christ Together

\* **Call to Worship and Lighting of the Prophets' Candles in Advent Wreath** | Isaiah 9:2-7 | Pew Bible p. 573

*Leader:       The people who walked in darkness  
                  have seen a great light;  
                  those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
                  on them has light shone.  
                  You have multiplied the nation;  
                  you have increased its joy;  
                  they rejoice before you  
                  as with joy at the harvest,  
                  as they are glad when they divide the spoil.  
                  For the yoke of his burden,  
                  and the staff for his shoulder,  
                  the rod of his oppressor,  
                  you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
                  For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
                  and every garment rolled in blood  
                  will be burned as fuel for the fire.  
                  For to us a child is born,  
                  to us a son is given;*

*and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

# \* Come Thou Long Expected Jesus-Trinity Hymnal No. 196

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple  
 2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day - spring from on high, ap -  
 3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no  
 4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a

8  
 free; from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in  
 pear; come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to  
 end; by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd,  
 king, born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom

16  
 thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou  
 hear! O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a  
 Friend. Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with in a cat - tle  
 bring. By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a -

24  
 art, dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
 birth: "Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."  
 stall; this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.  
 lone; by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: 1,4 Charles Wesley, 1744; 2,3 Mark Hunt, 1978  
 Music: Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

## \* Prayer of Invocation

\* **Scripture Reading** | Isaiah 60:1-5, 20-22 | Pew Bible pp. 619-620

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.  
And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lift up your eyes all around, and see;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from afar,  
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and exult,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

Your sun shall no more go down,  
nor your moon withdraw itself;  
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your days of mourning shall be ended.  
Your people shall all be righteous;  
they shall possess the land forever,  
the branch of my planting, the work of my hands,  
that I might be glorified.

The least one shall become a clan,  
and the smallest one a mighty nation;  
I am the Lord;  
in its time I will hasten it.

# Arise, Shine for Your Light Has Come

1. A - rise shine for your light has come and the glo - ry of God is on you A -  
 2. A - rise come to the o - pen gates for the Fa - ther is wel - com - ing you

5  
 rise see when the earth grows dark that the Lord will a - rise up - on you the  
 Fear not for the Lord brings peace and re - demp - tion to all who be - lieve re -

9  
 Lord - will a - rise up - on you.  
 demp - tion to all who be - lieve.

11

Na - tions will come to your light lift up your eyes and see we'll gath - er to - geth - er — and

16  
 1.  
 come to you and your love will be all that we know your love will be all that we know. 2. A

21  
 2.  
 know. The sun will not shine — cause you'll be all the light that we need and

25  
 1.  
 vio - lence will — end — all the wars that we wage will — cease The

28  
 2.  
 cease. We will glo - ri - fy Your name. We will glo - ri - fy your name. **D.S. al Fine**

Words and music: Jered McKenna, 2013

# RENEWAL

## Call to Confession | Isaiah 53:3-4

*Leader: He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

*Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.*

## Corporate Confession of Sin | From "Valley of Vision"

All: I, a poor sinner,  
confess before You, Almighty God,  
that I have sinned gravely and in various ways against You,  
not only with outward gross sins, but much more with  
internal, innate blindness, unbelief, doubts, faintheartedness,  
impatience, pride, evil greed, secret envy, hatred and jealousy,  
as well as other evil emotions.  
You, my Lord and God, recognize this in me very well,  
but sadly I cannot recognize them sufficiently.  
I feel sorrow and regret for them,  
and wholeheartedly repent of these and all my sins,  
trusting in the precious blood and person of Christ to forgive me.  
Hear my prayers of confession and repentance.  
In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.

## Silent Confession

\* **Words of Comfort** | Isaiah 55:6-7

*Leader: "Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

\* **Passing of the Peace**

*Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.*

**All:** And also with you.

# Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence-Trinity Hymnal No. 193

1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep — si - lence, and with fear and  
 2. King of kings, yet born of — Mar - y, as of old on  
 3. Rank on rank the host of — heav - en spreads its van - guard  
 5 4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,  
 10 earth he — stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man — ves - ture,  
 on the — way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth,  
 sleep - less — eye, veil their fac - es to the — pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in his — hand, Christ our God to  
 14 in the bod - y and the — blood, he will give to  
 from the realms of end - less — day, that the pow'rs of  
 as with cease - less voice they — cry, "Al - le - lu - ia,

earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.  
 all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly — food.  
 hell may van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Words: Liturgy of St. James, 5th century

Music: 17th century French Melody, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

## \* Affirmation of Faith | Apostle's Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended into hell.

The third day He rose  
again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy catholic church; \*  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

\*the universal church that trusts in Christ alone

## Friendship Register

Kindly remember to give your neighbor the Friendship Register. Once it reaches the end of the pew, then please pass it back. Making acquaintances with guests and fostering friendships within the larger church family is the goal of this register. Starting from the middle aisle, the register is located at the head of each pew. Please, make sure to write your name legibly.

## Worship Through Giving

The offering is a way for members and friends of Lexington Presbyterian to present the substance of their whole lives to God. Please feel no pressure to give.

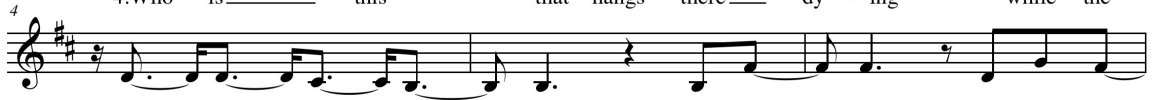
Ways to give:

- You may use the offering plates.
- Go to “Giving” on your Church Center mobile app or [lexpres.churchcenter.com](http://lexpres.churchcenter.com).
- Text2Give: text any dollar amount to 84321.

# Who Is This So Weak and Helpless



1. Who is \_\_\_\_\_ this so weak and \_\_\_\_\_ help - less child of  
 2. Who is \_\_\_\_\_ this, a Man of \_\_\_\_\_ Sor - rows, walk - ing  
 3. Who is \_\_\_\_\_ this? Be - hold him \_\_\_\_\_ shed - ding drops of  
 4. Who is \_\_\_\_\_ this that hangs there \_\_\_\_\_ dy - ing while the



low - ly \_\_\_\_\_ He - brew \_\_\_\_\_ maid Rude - ly \_\_\_\_\_ in a sta - ble  
 sad - ly \_\_\_\_\_ life's \_\_\_\_\_ hard \_\_\_\_\_ way, Home - less, \_\_\_\_\_ wea - ry, sigh - ing,  
 blood \_\_\_\_\_ up - on \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ ground! Who is \_\_\_\_\_ this, des - pised, re -  
 rude \_\_\_\_\_ world \_\_\_\_\_ scoffs \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ scorns, Num - bered \_\_\_\_\_ with the mal - e -



— shel - ter cold - ly in \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ man - ger \_\_\_\_\_ laid? Tis the  
 — weep - ing o - ver sin \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Sa - tan's \_\_\_\_\_ sway? Tis our  
 - ject - ed, mocked, in - sult - ed, \_\_\_\_\_ beat - en, \_\_\_\_\_ bound? Tis our  
 - fac - tors, torn with nails, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ crowned with \_\_\_\_\_ thorns? Tis our



Lord \_\_\_\_\_ of all cre - a - tion \_\_\_\_\_ who this wond - drous path has  
 God, \_\_\_\_\_ our glor - ious Sa - vior, \_\_\_\_\_ who a - bove \_\_\_\_\_ the star - ry  
 God, \_\_\_\_\_ who gifts and grac - es \_\_\_\_\_ on his church \_\_\_\_\_ is pour - ing  
 God \_\_\_\_\_ who lives for - ev - er \_\_\_\_\_ mid the shin - ing ones on



trod; He is Lord \_\_\_\_\_ from ev - er - last - ing and to  
 sky Is for us \_\_\_\_\_ a place pre - par - ing, where no  
 down; Who shall smite \_\_\_\_\_ in ho - ly ven - geance all his  
 high, In the glor - ious gold - en ci - ty, reign - ing



ev - - - er - last - ing God  
 tear can dim the eye.  
 foes be - neath his throne.  
 ev - - - er - last - ing ly.

Words: William Walsham How (1823-1897)  
 Music: Christopher Miner, 1997

## \* The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all

The first system of musical notation for the Doxology. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 2/4 time and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics for this system are "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all".

creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host:

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics for this system are "creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host:". The treble staff has a fermata over the final note of the phrase.

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The third and final system of musical notation. It concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics for this system are "praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.". The treble staff has a fermata over the final note of the phrase.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1674  
Tune (OLD HUNDREDTH): Louis Bourgeois, 1551  
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## \* Offertory Prayer

# HEARING GOD'S WORD

**Corporate Prayer**

**Children's Sermon** | God is Faithfull!

**Ordination and Installation of Ruling Elders and Deacons** |

11 a.m. Worship Only

**Ruling Elders:**

- Keith Boland
- Tommy Parnell\*
- Todd Shafer\*
- Jeff Spurgeon\*
- John Thompson
- Eddie Williams\*

**Deacons:**

- McKie Green
- Tim McConnell\*
- Ryan Oates\*
- Chuck Williams\*

\* Newly ordained

## \* Scripture Reading | Luke 1:46-55 | pp. 856

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

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

<sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

<sup>52</sup> he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

## Sermon An Exposition of the Canticles in Luke 1 & 2

### 1. The Magnificat: A Song of God's Faithfulness

Rev. Dr. Curt McDaniel

## Sermon Notes

Henry Norris Russell (1877-1957) was one of America's foremost astronomers in his time, amassing a breadth and depth of knowledge in his field that was never equaled or rivaled. Born to Christian parents, especially to a father who was a Presbyterian minister, he stood at the top of his class at Princeton University, where he earned his doctorate at only the age of 22. With the lone exception of a short time of study and work at Cambridge, he devoted 36 years of his life and career to Princeton.

His greatest accomplishment involved a 1913 research publication that led to what was known as the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram. Begun 10 years prior to this, he collaborated with the British astronomer Arthur Robert Hinks in developing a program that derived stellar parallaxes photographically. <sup>1</sup> This work was instrumental in his discovery of a relationship between the absolute magnitudes and spectral types of stars. He made other important contributions to the theory of stellar structure. It is most fitting that in memory of his contributions to astrophysics, the diagram that he created bears his name.

One day Russell concluded a lecture on the Milky Way when a woman in the audience came to him and asked, "If our world is so little, and the universe is so great, can we believe that God pays any attention to us?" Russell replied, "That depends, madam, entirely on how big a God you believe in." <sup>2</sup>

Advent answers that question emphatically. Do we have a God that pays any attention to us? Is He big enough to keep His promises? Is He big enough to take notice of your life moment by moment? Is He big enough to know you personally? The opening two chapters in the Gospel of Luke show us from historical narrative a clear description of the Triune God's initiative in the incarnation with the entrance of God the Son into the world. By looking at these opening chapters here and in the other Gospels, we see the central message of Christianity: God came down physically, emotionally, and fully to live with us for a while so that we could know Him personally and intimately, witness His work of redemption, and love Him in return by embracing His offer and free gift of eternal life.

You see this great message beautifully portrayed in the Christmas songs exclusively found only in Luke's Gospel. Here and only here, you find four songs, or "canticles", that given that show us qualities of God's character and attributes that enrich our understanding of the coming of Christ and God the Father's purposes in sending Him to us.

- *The Magnificat*, sung by Mary (1:46-56), portrays God's faithfulness.
- *The Benedictus*, sung by Zechariah (1:67-79), portrays God's salvation.
- *The Gloria in Excelsis Deo*, sung by the angels (2:14), portrays God's glory and peace.
- *The Nunc Dimittis*, sung by Simeon (2:29-32), portrays God's sovereignty.

In chronological listing, we focus today on the Magnificat.

As you look at this beautiful song, you are struck by the intense personal affection and love that fills Mary's heart for her Lord, despite the difficult circumstances that surrounded her situation: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (1:46). Both these verbs, "magnify" and "rejoices," along with the accompanying pronouns ("My soul, my spirit"), appear emphatically in the text, signaling intense personal emotion and affection, no doubt stemming from a longing in the Jewish ethos through the centuries to see their promised Messiah come. "Every idea here occurs in the Old Testament, showing that Mary's mind was full of the spiritual message of God's Word."<sup>3</sup> What causes Mary to be so grateful? What would make her spirit soar?

As you meditate on her song (the best way to study it and the other songs), you see that the reasons for her gratitude form a predominant theme: **the faithfulness of God**. In this text, she cites several ways God showed His faithfulness, and these ways form solid reasons why we should praise God not only just in Advent but always: "A regal majesty reigns throughout [this] hymn of praise."<sup>4</sup>

1. **God was faithful to remember her (1:48-49).** Notice the personal aspect here at the beginning of her song: "My soul, my spirit, God my Savior (verse 48) and "For the mighty One has done great things for me" (verse 49). There was a deep sense that God was faithful to remember to save Mary. He remembered her. Whether her concept of God as Savior was deliverance from political oppression (the Jewish vision of the Messiah) or salvation spiritually (remember the angel's words in 1:32, Jesus would be "the Son of the Most High"), she took personal notice that God saw her in her personal situation. Her thoughts clearly reflect an OT understanding of salvation (1 Samuel 2:1, Psalm 35:9, Habakkuk 3:18). That is a gospel theme of Advent. God saw her in her deepest need, and He addressed it:

- **God is a personal God.**
- **God has not forgotten you.**

- **God remembers you and what is happening in your life right now.**

2. **God was faithful to remember His people (1:54-55).** 1:54-55 states, “He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” The Children of Israel carried with them through the centuries the promises that God would be their God and that they would be His people. The history of their life as a people in OT narrative (foreshadowing the cross) portrayed many times how God saved them from their troubles and afflictions. Take Isaiah 63 as one example among many that could be cited:

<sup>7</sup> I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,  
the praises of the LORD,  
according to all that the LORD has granted us,  
and the great goodness to the house of Israel  
that He has granted them according to His compassion,  
according to the abundance of His steadfast love.

<sup>8</sup> For He said, “Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely.”  
And He became their Savior.

<sup>9</sup> In all their affliction He was afflicted,  
and the angel of his presence saved them;  
in His love and in His pity He redeemed them;  
He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

In Mary’s song, she recalls God’s remembrance of her spiritual father Abraham, a man called out of Ur of the Chaldees to become the father of many nations and people groups, such as the Jews (through Isaac) and the Muslims (through Ismael), but most especially by faith to Christians (through his call in Genesis 12:1-3 and the Abrahamic Covenant in Genesis 17 and its fulfillment in Christ). In her reflection, she recalls her history and heritage well. God not only remembered her in her own difficult situation but also remembered her people in lovingkindness: “The Magnificat clearly shows that Mary views what was happening even now as a realization of the ancient promise to Abraham. The mercy she praised in song had reference ‘to Abraham and to his seed to eternity,’ that is, ‘forever.’”<sup>5</sup>

3. **God was faithful to remember His mercy (1:50).** 1:50 reads, “And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.” No doubt Mary knew from her history that the God she honored was a God who struck fear in the hearts of the people because of His holiness (perhaps she recalled images of God’s power in the plagues on Egypt, the pillars of fire and cloud in the wilderness, the Bronze Serpent, the smoke and thunder on Mt. Sinai, the fire from heaven upon Mt. Carmel, and others). Her God was a God of true purity and righteousness. Yet to those who came to Him in humility, obedience, and dependance they would see and experience mercy from His tender hand: “The thought of fearing God is frequent in Luke (12:5, 18:2, 4, 23:40) ...It expresses in OT language the proper response to the covenant mercy of God.”<sup>6</sup>

Advent reminds us that God is holy, and because of that holiness, **Christ was sent to save God’s people in mercy.** John echoes this theme in John 1:14, “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” In Jesus Christ, we see the glory of God. We see the Truth of God. We also see the grace and mercy of God.

4. **God was faithful to remember His promises (1:51-53).** It states, “He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.” No doubt in Mary’s mind she remembered how God kept His promises and performed mighty acts through people such as Noah, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Ruth, Hannah, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Esther, and others who approached God with humility and a gentle spirit. To her, this God was an Almighty Creator-King who kept His promises to those who were lowly in heart, something the apostle Peter says very clearly in 1 Peter 5:5: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” In Mary’s Magnificat, she remembered God’s promises to the poor in spirit and to the pure in heart (see Matthew 5:3, 8).

The Magnificat, the first song in the Lukan Canticles, declares to us in the Advent season that God remembers His promises. He remembers His mercies. He remembers His people, and He remembers you and me personally. We can live with quiet and calm assurance now and always with the knowledge and hope that Almighty God holds you and me in the palm of His hands.

*He has and will forever remember you.  
He has and will forever remember His promises.  
He has and forever will remember His mercies.  
He has and forever will remember His people.*

*Why?*

*Because this is His very nature.*

*So, SING!*

*Sing with faith! Sing in love! Sing with joy! Sing with hope!  
God remembers! He remembers you! He remembers His church! He remembers His  
promises!  
Never forget this. Never!*

***Personal Application:***

- Are you thankful for God's faithfulness today? Advent is a splendid time to recount God's faithfulness over this year and to thank God for His goodness to you.
- Like Mary, do you see God's mercy in your life? Make this Advent season one of remembering God's mercy and love.

***Reflection:***

“Mary’s Magnificat was a song of faith. You have thought, perhaps, that you could easily have sung this song if you had been as highly favored as she was; but are you sure that you could have done so? Have you ever realized the difficulties under which this hymn was composed and sung? If not, permit me to remind you that the wondrous birth which had been promised to her, had not then been accomplished, and in her mind there must have been a consciousness that many would doubt her statements. The visitation of the angel, and all its consequences, would seem to be ridiculous and even impossible to many to whom she might venture to mention the circumstances; nay, more than that, would subject her to many cruel insinuations, which would scandalize her character, and that which conferred upon her the highest honor that ever fell to woman would, in the judgment of many, bring upon her the greatest possible dishonor. We know what suspicions even Joseph had, and that it was only a revelation of God that could remove them. Mary must have been sorely troubled if she had been influenced by her natural feelings, and had been swayed by external circumstances.

It was only her wondrous faith, in some respects, her matchless faith, for no other woman had ever had such a blessed trial of faith as she had, it was only her matchless faith that she should be the mother of the holy child Jesus, that sustained her. Truly blessed was she in believing that, and blessed indeed was she in that, even before there was an accomplishment of the things that were told her by the angel, she could sing, 'My soul does magnify the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.' Unbelief would have said, 'Wait.' Fear would have said, 'Be silent.' But faith could not wait, and could not be silent; she must sing, and sing she did most sweetly."<sup>7</sup>

### *Study and Discussion Questions:*

- Review the biblical themes of faithfulness seen in the Magnificat. Which one(s) stand out to you? What can be learned by reviewing the OT and seeing God's faithfulness in biblical history?
- How is God's faithfulness seen in the coming of Christ? How does this biblical song enable us to sing during Advent?
- What lessons about God's character from this song can be learned and applied personally and by the church as a whole?
- Discuss this thought: In reflecting upon God's faithfulness to her, to her people, to His mercies and promises, Mary was prompted to SING. What are you singing about these days? What do you need to sing about?

### *Footnotes:*

1. <https://biographies.org/henry-russel>
2. <https://bible.org/illustration/how-big-our-god>
3. A.T. Robertson, Word Pictures in the New Testament. 6 Volumes. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1910. II:16.
4. Norval Geldenhuys, The Gospel of Luke. The New International Commentary on the New Testament. Tenth Printing. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977, 85/
5. William Hendriksen, New Testament Commentary: The Gospel of Luke. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1978, 109. Original emphasis.
6. I. Howard Marshall, Commentary on Luke. New International Greek Testament

Commentary. Eds. I. Howard Marshall and W. Ward Gasque. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978, 83.

7. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, "Mary's Magnificat." Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit. 63 Volumes. Pasadena, TX: Pilgrim Publications, 1978. LI: 300-301. Sermon #2,941 preached on Thursday evening, April 22, 1875, at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, London.

\* **Dawning Light of Our Salvation**



1. Long in dark-ness Is-rael wan-d'red; Long in mor-tal sha-dows, we  
 2. He shall raise a migh-ty Sav-ior; born of Dav-id's lin-eage, He  
 3. Je-sus, Lord, and migh-ty Sav-ior, Dav-id's Son and yet his King,  
 Walked in bon-dage and self-pi-ty, Trod in paths of sin and grief.  
 comes in cov-'nant love to claim us from our sins to set us free.  
 Dawn-ing light of our sal-va-tion, of your sav-ing pow'r we sing!  
 In the pro-phets' words He told us, Long the God of Is-rael spoke;  
 Light to those who dwell in dark-ness Life to those from death who flee  
 Stand, oh lame, and dance ye brok-en, know the Sav-ior's heal-ing grace;  
 He a-lone in strength would save us From the hands of all our foes.  
 Joy un-to the earth, and glad-ness, To your path-ways dawn-ing peace!  
 Come, oh deaf and hear him sing-ing; turn, oh blind, be-hold his face!  
 Ev-'ry val-ley be ex-al-ted! Ev-'ry moun-tain be made plain! —  
 Crook-ed ways re-pent and straight-en; All cre-a-tion bend in praise! —

Words: Wendell Kimbrough, 2012  
 Music: Bruce Benedict, 2012

## \* Sending

## \* Benediction | Hebrew 13:20-21

*Leader: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

## \* Postlude

### **Serving This Morning:**

Updates, Liturgist and Pastoral Prayer: Joe Wright

Readers: Todd and Melody Shafer, Lara Lomas, Carrie Chapman

Musicians: Butch Bost, Heather Coleridge, Jeff Francis, Ruth Ellen Lorick, and Tim McConnell

Audio/visual and livestream: Chris Hollis, Jim McFarland, Todd Shafer

## Faith Promise Giving:

LPC fiscal budget year is July 1st to June 30th.

Through the end of October 2024:

General Fund transfer to missions	\$43,332
Faith Promise Giving:	\$33,603
Missions Disbursements	\$61,146

## Stewardship

Through the end of October, 2024:

Budget FYTD	\$407,092
Received FYTD	\$372,023
Expenditures FYTD	\$336,982

## Updates

### **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** | December 8

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper next Sunday, **December 8th**, in the worship services. Please prayerfully prepare for our meeting with Jesus at His table.

### **The Christmas Songs of Scripture** | An Exposition of the Canticles in Luke 1 & 2

Exclusive to Luke's Gospel account only are the appearances of four great songs or "canticles" that declare the gospel story by portraying specific attributes of God in the redemptive narrative and plan. Each canticle unfolds a beautiful picture and declaration of God's intention in the bringing of salvation in the person of Christ to this earth. Join us for a fresh picture of the gospel in the exposition of these picturesque songs in Luke's Gospel.

- December 1: "The Magnificat: A Song of God's Faithfulness" (Luke 1:46-56).
- December 8: "The Benedictus: A Song of God's Salvation" (Luke 1:56-80).
- December 15: "The Gloria in Excelsis Deo: A Song of Gods Glory and Peace" (Luke 2:1-20).
- December 22: "The Nunc Dimittis: A Song of God's Sovereignty" (Luke 2:21-35).
- December 24: Annual Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

### **Director of Music and Worship**

LPC is seeking a full-time Director of Music and Worship. Please visit [lexpreschurch.com](http://lexpreschurch.com) and click on "Jobs" at the bottom of the home page to view the full job description and learn how to apply. Thank you!

**LPC Children's Christmas Extravaganza**  
 Wednesday, December 4th | 6:00 - 8:00pm  
 Tomlin Hall | \$5.00

- Crafts
- Games
- Cookies
- Hot Chocolate
- Christmas Movie
- BRING A FRIEND!

Register by December 1



**the PROMISE**  
 BIRTH OF THE MESSAGE

The Pastor Search Committee  
 is taking recommendations for  
 Senior Pastor

Please, fill out a form and place in the box at the back of the sanctuary



LPC Women's Ministry

**Cookie Swap**  
 Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>  
 at 7:00pm  
 in Tomlin Hall  
 Bring 2 dozen cookies  
 and wear your ugliest  
 Christmas Sweater!



**Christmas Worship Schedule**  
 December 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>  
 One Service at 10am  
 No CE classes



**MNA** Mission to North America

**THANKSGIVING OFFERING**  
 ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR ANNUAL THANKSGIVING OFFERING WILL SUPPORT MNA DISASTER RESPONSE IN AIDING THOSE IMPACTED BY HURRICANE HELENE AND HURRICANE MILTON



**Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30 pm**




**50th Anniversary**

50th Anniversary Cookbooks  
 are still available.  
 Come to the church office  
 to purchase!



**lifeline**  
 children's services

adoption information meeting  
 december 13, 2024 | 6:00pm  
 midtown fellowship | 924 e main st | lexington  
 free | childcare provided



## Connect Card

Thanks for joining us today.  
We would love to come alongside you in your walk with Jesus, whether you're new to our community or you've been here a while.

Visit [lexpreschurch.com/connect](https://lexpreschurch.com/connect) or scan the QR code to fill out our Connect Card!

If you're not familiar with QR codes, we're here to help!

1. Open your smartphone's camera and point it at the QR code so that it shows clearly on your screen.
2. Wait for the camera to recognize and scan the QR code.
3. Click the link banner or notification when it pops up on your screen. Our Connect Card will automatically load in your browser.



## Women's Ministry website and Facebook group:

<https://lexpreschurch.com/womens-ministry/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LPCWomen>

## Youth Ministry Newsletter Subscription

Please, scan this QR Code with your phone camera.



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