

## Reflection and Discussion

Sermon Series	Immanuel
Sermon Title	The Song
Bible Texts	Luke 1:46-56
Date	December 17, 2023

### CONNECT – Getting to know one another

- Question 1: Define “joy” in your own words.
- Question 2: Have you ever been surprised by an event that you immediately knew was going to be life-changing?

### EQUIP – Understanding God’s word

**The angel Gabriel had just informed Mary of the child she would have, and she was taking it all in. Then she went to visit her relative Elizabeth, and they rejoiced together. As you read Luke 1:39-56, do you share in their joy?**

- Question 3: When Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, what did she do?
- Question 4: What was especially exciting for Elizabeth about Mary’s visit?
- Question 5: Mary sings a song of praise to God after Elizabeth’s greeting. How would you describe Mary’s heart attitude as evidenced by the words of her song?
- Question 6: What was the theme of Mary’s praise?
- Question 7: What attributes of God does Mary cover in her song? At this time in your life, which of these attributes is most meaningful to you? Why?
- Question 8: The prospect of expecting a baby as an unmarried woman would have been a hardship for Mary. Where do you think her joy came from? Where does our joy come from? (John 15:11, 16:20-24; James 1:2-4; Habakkuk 3:17-19)
- Question 9: To whom does God’s mercy extend? Does this knowledge bring you peace and joy?
- Question 10: What do we learn about the humble from Mary’s song? What do we learn about the proud?
- Question 11: What did it mean to faithful Jews to “fear the Lord” (v 50)? What does it mean for us now as Christians? (A few verses—Proverbs 9:10; Psalm 25:14, 103:11-14; Acts 9:31, 16:14; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11)
- Question 12: In verse 49, Mary states, “...for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.” What were the great things God had done for Mary? Why do you think she was reflecting on his great power at this time?
- Question 13: In verse 51, she begins listing his “mighty deeds.” What are those mighty deeds? Do these inspire praise in our hearts?



Question 14: How do those verses resonate with you in light of our present world events?

Question 15: The song of Mary is very similar to Hannah's song in I Samuel 2:1-10. Many of Mary's words seem to reflect the Psalms. What does this tell you about her?

Question 16: After 2,000 years, Mary is still remembered by the church. What does that tell us of God's truthfulness and faithfulness? What has made Mary so memorable—what she did, her faithfulness or the grace she received?

### DISCIPLESHIP – Becoming and doing

Question 17: Jesus' birth brought and still brings joy to those who believe, yet life's challenges can drain joy during the Advent season. How might you help restore joy for those you know who are experiencing difficult times?

Question 18: In what ways will you slow down so that the busyness that can cause overload during this time of year will be replaced with the peace and joy you long for?

Question 19: How can we help others find joy amidst trying circumstances? Does anyone in particular come to your mind right now?