



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: Advent: Mary's Song**  
**Speaker: Rich Villodas, Lead Pastor**  
**Scripture: Luke 1:46-56**

And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

remembering to be merciful

to Abraham and his descendants forever just as he promised our ancestors.”

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

*Luke 1:46-56 (NIV)*

#### **Sermon Outline:**

- Mary was a 14-year old poor girl from Jerusalem. She was engaged to Joseph and planning on getting married, but God interrupted Mary's life - her goals/plans/timeline and dreams. Mary accepted the invitation of God and, by doing so, risked her life. Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, who was also pregnant. Mary's response to the Lord was to let it be and she began to sing a song: one of Mercy and Justice. When Mary accepted the invitation from God, she changes the course of human history. We are to pay attention to what God has done with Mary.
- When God's goodness comes to you, the proper response is to sing.
- The mercy of God is the consistent, ever-faithful, relentless, constantly-pursuing, lavish, extravagant, furious love of God.
- Two themes of Mary's song:  
  
Song of Mercy. When the world is bringing us pain, God is bringing us relief. As a people of God, we are not only to receive mercy, but are also to give mercy.  
  
Song of Justice. There are a lot of things wrong in the earth but when God comes, he makes everything right. God flips the system and makes everything right in His way. There is a day coming where God will make all things right.
- Advent reminds us of two things: no sin is so deep that God's mercy doesn't go deeper, and there is nothing is so wrong with the world that God's justice won't make it right.

### **Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday Pastor Rich begins a new series on Advent and discusses the story of Mary's Song, highlighting God's mercy and justice and how we need to continue to seek this in our lives today.

### **Sermon Questions:**

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, was mercy something to give or to deny to people? How does that affect how you view mercy towards other?
3. Has God ever interrupted your life? How did you feel? What was your reaction? What do those feelings/reactions say about yourself?
4. How has God been merciful in your life? How does that allow you to show mercy to others? What difficulties do you have in extending mercy?
5. What is your definition of justice?
6. What is broken in your life that you are yearning for God to enter and make right?