

## Sermon Notes/Reflection:

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## *Advent Schedule*



### Family Christmas Service

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 10am, WPC



### Christmas Joy Offering

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> during service



### Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, after service



### Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 11pm, WPC



### Wabash Presbyterian Church

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 www.wabashpresbyterian.com

Office Hours | Mondays-Fridays, 8:30am-12:30pm

## *Singing through Advent*



*Because some news is so good,  
it has to be sung!*

Advent 2014 Devotional  
Week Four

Written by Kari Lee Otto

# The Price of Praise

It had been years since she thought about that night, but the song was never far from her heart. *Oh, how my soul praises the Lord...* Mary began to recite it once again. Dr. Luke, a disciple, was sitting with her, listening as she recounted the night Jesus was born, scribbling notes so that he, too, could tell the world about the way their Savior arrived.

But the story started before that night. It started back when the angel told her the good news. It started when she visited her relative Elizabeth and celebrated with her. The song just flowed out from her that night. *My spirit rejoices in God my Savior! For he took notice of his lowly servant girl.* Soon, it became a refrain for her life.

When she and Joseph accidentally left twelve-year-old Jesus at the temple and he told them, "I must be in my Father's house," when she and her other children went to see Jesus but couldn't get to him because of the crowd, when she watched him turn water into wine at a wedding, when she watched Jesus get nailed to a tree and breathe his last... These were the moments when the song came back to her.

*He shows mercy from generation to generation...  
He has filled the hungry with good things...  
He has helped his servant Israel...*

Sometimes the praise flowed freely, but many times it was hard to offer. Because her heart hurt, and she didn't understand. These were the moments when Mary offered her praise as a sacrifice to God. Hebrews 13:15 encourages us to do the same: "With Jesus' help we will continually offer our sacrifice of praise to God by telling others of the glory of his name." This week, may we, like Mary, praise and glorify the name of Jesus – even when it costs us everything we have.

## Monday

*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (Luke 1:46-47a)*

Mary's song is a psalm of Thanksgiving in which she lists the many things she is grateful for. Let's start the week by doing the same. What are you thankful for? Spend some time praising and thanking God for the way He is working in your life.

## Tuesday

*...for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant... he who is mighty has done great things for me. (Luke 1:48-49)*

God sees you. He saw Hannah when she cried out for a son; He saw Hagar as she hid in the wilderness; He saw Mary in her faithful service. And He sees you, too. What does this mean to you, that God sees you and hears you? That He acts on your behalf and does great things for you? Tell God, and thank Him for being involved in your life.

## Wednesday

*...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. (Luke 1:51b-52)*

"God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). Is there any pride in your heart? James, the brother of Jesus, encourages us to humble ourselves before God. Take some time to confess your pride to God. Then praise Him. By lifting God up, we make *Him* important, not ourselves.

## Thursday

*...he has filled the hungry with good things... (Luke 1:53)*

What are you hungry for? Friendship? Security? Success? Whatever it is, take those desires to God and allow Him to fill you with *His* good gifts. It will be far better than anything you could ever imagine.

## Friday

*He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever. (Luke 1:54-55)*

God is faithful and keeps His promises. That is one truth we can hold onto. What promises do you need to call to mind today? List them out. Read them over and over again. Meditate on them. And thank Him for being a God who keeps His promises to us, His children.

## Reflection Notes:

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