

WELCOME!



Worship ~ 10:30 am

Morning Worship

December 12, 2021

Reflections

In her song, she looks ahead with total certainty to what God will bring about through her Son. Mary's shift from what God has done "for me" to what God has done "for Israel" is significant. Gospel-religion is both personal and corporate, and never one at the expense of the other. We must personally respond to God in faith (like Mary's "let it be"), but we must also join ourselves to his people (as Mary sees herself in solidarity with the covenant nation). Mary's celebration of God's redeeming work expands from "for me" to "for Israel." What God does for Mary he does for all his people. Mary is representative and paradigmatic.
~Rich Lusk

It's all about what God has done for the salvation, for the redemption of His people. Mary is singing about the gospel here. She's excited about the gospel; she is seeing the gospel unfold before her very eyes, and her response is to praise God for it and to believe in it. In doing so she also reminds us that the whole Christian life is based on the gospel. It is God's initiating mercy to us in Jesus Christ by which He forgives us and pardons and accepts us that is the foundation for everything in life. Until we understand that we do not deserve forgiveness, but that for all who admit that they do not deserve forgiveness and who look to God for forgiveness, by mercy there is more forgiveness offered than we could possibly get our heads around. And that's the whole foundation of the whole Christian life. ~Ligon Duncan

Approach to God

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship — Psalm 27:1-5 (responsive)

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

**² When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.**

**³ Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.**

(Continued on page 4)

- ⁴ One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to inquire in his temple.
- ⁵ **For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.**

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Praise — Ancient of Days

Though the nations rage, kingdoms rise and fall
There is still one King, reigning over all
So I will not fear for this truth remains:
That my God is the Ancient of Days

Chorus

*None above Him, none before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power, all the glory
I will trust in His name
For my God is the Ancient of Days*

Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul
He is here with me, I am not alone
O His love is sure and He knows my name
For my God is the Ancient of Days (chorus)

Though I may not see what the future brings
I will watch and wait for the Savior King
Then my joy complete standing face to face
In the presence of the Ancient of Days (chorus)

Hymn of Praise — Angels we Have Heard on High

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Confession of Sin — Proverbs 3:5-18

- ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
- ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
- ⁷ Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
- ⁸ It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones.
- ⁹ Honor the LORD with your wealth
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;
- ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.
- ¹¹ My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
- ¹² for the LORD reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.
- ¹³ Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,
and the one who gets understanding,
- ¹⁴ for the gain from her is better than gain from silver
and her profit better than gold.
- ¹⁵ She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
- ¹⁶ Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
- ¹⁷ Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
- ¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called blessed.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon — Isaiah 11:1-9 (responsive)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

**² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.**

³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

**⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.**

**⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.**

**⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.**

**⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.**

**⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.**

**⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;**

**for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.**

Song of Response — Prepare Him Room

O behold, the mystery now unfolds
See the star shine on the virgin foretold
Angels sing and light up the sky
Hope rings out in a newborn's cry
Swing wide, you ancient gates for Christ is born today!

CHORUS

*Prepare Him room
Prepare Him room
Let the King of glory enter in*

God with us, the promise has come to be
This, the one the prophets were longing to see
In the darkness a blazing light
To the hungry the words of life
His kingdom now is near for those
with ears to hear (chorus)

Oh, our hearts, as busy as Bethlehem
Hear Him knock, don't say
there's no room in the inn
Through the cradle, cross, and grave
See the love of God displayed
Now He's risen and He reigns.
Praise the Name above all names!

Offering* — John 3:16 ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**You can give on-line at the New Hope website: www.newhopeopc.org and click on the green "give" button in the corner.*

Congregational Prayer

Sermon Text — Luke 1:39-56

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

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.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

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

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

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Sermon — In Remembrance of Mercy

~ Pastor Francis VanDelden

Closing Song — He Who is Mighty (page 11)

In Remembrance of Mercy

Luke 1:39-56

1. Desperate for Mercy

2. The Promise of Mercy

3. The Gift of Mercy

4. The Life of Mercy

Closing Song — He Who is Mighty

Oh, the mercy our God has shown
To those who sit in death's shadow
The sun on high pierced the night
Born was the Cornerstone

PRE-CHORUS

*Unto us a Son is given,
unto us a Child is born*

CHORUS

*He Who is mighty has done a great thing
Taken on flesh, conquered death's sting
Shattered the darkness and lifted our shame
Holy is His name*

Oh, the freedom our Savior won
The yoke of sin has been broken
Once a slave, now by grace
No more condemnation

BRIDGE

Now my soul magnifies the Lord,
I rejoice in the God Who saves
I will trust His unfailing love
I will sing His praises all my days

Benediction

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Dates to Know:

- **Christmas Eve Service**, Friday, December 24th at 7:00 pm at New Hope.
- **Christmas Service (with Children's Message)**, Sunday, December 26th, 10:30 am

Christmas Party, Ladies, mark your calendars for the New Hope Ladies' Restful Christmas party on Friday, December 17 at 7PM at Joli Chism's house (8223 Fox Hunt Lane, Frederick, MD 21702). Bring an appetizer or dessert to share (bake one if that's restful for you; buy one if that's restful for you) and a gift for the white elephant exchange if it's restful for you to participate.

Treasurer's Report, by Elease Layman, treasurer@newhopeopc.org

"Glory to God in the highest!" We hear and sing these words throughout December, often even in Latin (for that is the tongue angels, is it not?). As I consider these words with my Treasurer hat on, I wonder how many of us might have "Glory to God in the highest" as an honest motto for how we give, spend, and save money. How is my budget different from that of my unbelieving neighbor? Does the way I use and relate to money show glory to God *in the highest*...or glory to God in a fair-to-middling way? Let us not hold tightly as our own that which is God's, but let us grow in faithfulness and open-handedness. Let the world scratch its head at our financial priorities, and let us respond cheerfully with, "Glory to God in the highest!"

Notes & Numbers

- Please see the separate announcement regarding year-end giving deadlines.
- Remember that, while we're thrilled to offer the convenience of PayPal (and the chance for you to earn credit card points on your giving), New Hope does pay a percentage of your gift to PayPal in transaction fees (1.99% + \$0.49/transaction). With our return to more regular in-person worship, the Budget & Finance Committee wanted to encourage you to consider giving by check either in the offering bucket as a Sunday morning act of worship or by using your bank's online bill pay feature, by which the bank mails a paper check to the church office.

OPC Thank Offering 2021 New Hope Total: \$900

Facility Fund Giving, Jan. 1 through Nov. 30, 2021: \$59,648

General Fund Giving, Jan. 1 through Nov. 30, 2021

Actual: \$443,395

Budget: \$467,982

Variance: -\$24,587 (deficit)

Frederick Rescue Mission, from the Outreach Committee: we would like to bless the 15-18 residents at Frederick Rescue Mission with some stocking stuffers this Christmas. We will have a large stocking hanging in the lobby that you can stuff your gifts in. Some ideas are nice pens, note pads, gum, candy, art supplies, stamps, razors, chap sticks, mints, etc. Feel free to purchase other items you think they would like as well. The stocking stuffers need to be returned by December 15. So please bring your stocking stuffers in to church TODAY!

Cold Weather Needs drive, in addition to filling stockings for the residents, they are in need of cold weather items. What items are needed? Gloves (adult sized), hand warmers, chap stick. There will be a box by the large stocking through Christmas for any donations that are given.

Men's Ministry, Iron Sharpens Iron as one man sharpens another (Prov 27:17). Men of New Hope OPC, set your alarms for a weekly Saturday morning R.C. Sproul video series "Dust to Glory" Starting January 8th from 8 to 10 am. The plan is for an informal time of fellowship and growth in knowledge and understanding of our faith and to become more like Christ. The Sproul series is a survey of New Testament topics critical to our understanding of scripture and the truth of the gospel. All men are welcome. If you have any questions, ask Pastor Francis, David Porter or Monte Festog. See you on Jan 8th.

Young Couples & Singles Ministry, meeting monthly on the first Saturday of the month at the home of David & Joli Chism at 5:30 pm. Text David (301.401.7890) or Joli (301.712.8222) for directions or to RSVP. Feel free to bring a friend. This is for young adults (singles) and young married couples (no kids).

Sunday School Information, Sunday school will resume on January 9th. If you are interested in teaching any of the elementary aged classes, please contact Gingy Socash admin@newhopeopc.org

Serving Today (12/12):

- Welcome Team: Brian & Ann Burden, Joe Seiver
- Nursery (Worship service): Diana Neeriemer, Meg Quist, Micah Poortenga
- Sound: Ed Wright
- Livestream: Craig Lalley

Serving Next Week (12/19):

- Welcome Team: Cath & Katrina Howard, Wayne Greenfield
- Toddler & Infant Nursery (Worship service): Kim Hanlin, Jacob Mendez, Talia Poortenga, Kathy Koops
- Sound: Lance Duvall
- Livestream: Jim Washburne

Outreach Opportunities!

As we look to being more mindful of grabbing opportunities to share the gospel with friends, family, neighbors, and the community, the outreach committee wants to make known opportunities available to you. Check them out when they're published and consider ways that YOU can use your gifts to share the good news!

Event: Golden Mile Christmas Give Away

Date: Dec. 23rd

Time: 1-3pm

Place: Fredericktown Mall Shopping Center parking lot

We will be giving away, food and clothing.

Our need: 2-3 volunteers who have a heart for the Gospel and would be willing to mingle with people and see if they need prayer. Maybe have a prayer table set up with books. Spanish speakers would be a plus. We love giving away food and clothing, but we really want to let people know that God hears them and cares for them and desires to be in a relationship with Him. We will have Gospel tracts at the event.

COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

Our Church Family

- Pray for Tim Wesolek's mom as she goes through surgery for a broken hip so quickly after losing her husband. Pray that the Lord would sustain her, bring her comfort and healing quickly.
- Pray for Colleen Homon's niece, Kelly, who is recovering in New York from an overdose. Pray that she learns just how much God loves her and puts her faith and trust in Him. Pray that He will deliver her from her addictions and heal her.
- Give thanks for those who give of their time and talents each week to allow for New Hope to worship well.
- Pray that the Lord would give the people at New Hope a heart for evangelism, a desire to share the gospel with their neighbors, and a willingness to bold in their witness.
- Pray for those who struggle with loneliness or sadness during the holiday season. Pray that we will be mindful of those around us and look for ways to care for those who are struggling.
- Pray for Jyl Mixon who is expecting a new little one. Pray for the continued health and safety of both mom and baby.
- Continue to pray for those who are struggling: the Nichols family, Tyler Beck, Phyllis Brinson, Scott Innes, Barbara & Charles Ruch, Jeff & Patti Deschamps, Jen Bridenbaugh, Christopher Burden, the Vidal family, the Wright family, Bill Wright, Ron Oakes, Ed Rodatus and those who are grieving from the loss of loved ones. Pray for strength to bear their difficult trials.

Frederick Area

- Pray for the missions that we support financially: CareNet Pregnancy Center, Child Evangelism Fellowship, and the Frederick Rescue Mission. Pray that God will continue to provide for all their needs.
- Pray for opportunities to share our faith with people we come into contact with and for the boldness and humbleness to take advantage of what God puts in our way.

Missionaries & Others

- Pray for our mission of the month — the Frederick Rescue Mission who serves the Frederick area by providing warm meals, clothing, food and other basics to those who are in need while offering hope by sharing the love of Christ. Pray that during these cold weather months that they will be able to help many in Frederick that are struggling.
- Pray for the missionaries that have gone out (or are going out) from our midst: Kristen Lalley in Europe, Claire Hall in Scotland, and Luke Hake heading to east Asia. Give thanks that the Lord has called these folks to serve Him overseas by sharing the gospel with those who don't know Him. Pray that they will be strong in their prayer life, dedicated to the study of the Word, and humble in their service as they love and witness to those around them.

DAILY DEVOTION

Memory Text — Isaiah 9:3 ³You 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.

Belgic Confession Article 20 We believe that God, who is perfectly merciful and just, sent his Son to assume that nature, in which the disobedience was committed, to make satisfaction in the same, and to bear the punishment of sin by his most bitter passion and death. God therefore manifested his justice against his Son, when he laid our iniquities upon him; and poured forth his mercy and goodness on us, who were guilty and worthy of damnation, out of mere and perfect love, giving his Son unto death for us, and raising him for our justification, that through him we might obtain immortality and life eternal.

Monday: Luke 1:54-55. How would you explain what mercy is (Lk 10:29-37, Ps 51:1)? How do you see mercy lived out in the US today, including in the cancel culture? Lk 1:54 describes Israel as needing help and mercy -why (Mt 1:2-4, 16, 4:14-15, Jn 1:11)? For what specifically do you need God's mercy? Pray for it.

Tuesday: Luke 1:54-55. The word "helped" has the sense of reaching out a hand and taking hold of someone. How did God "help" Jacob in Is 41:8-9? Can you think of other places where God lifted up, rescued his people (e.g. Ex 6:5, 32:13, 2 Ki 13:23, Is 49:14ff)? Call to mind some times God had mercy on you. Pray for someone who needs God's mercy, and display mercy to them (Ps 25:6).

Wednesday: Lk 1:54-55. What is the reason Mary gives for God helping his people (v 54-55)? What promise is this (Lk 1:72-73, Gen 17:7, 19, 18:18, Mic 7:20)? How is it fulfilled in Jesus' birth, thus in Mary's song? Using a few of these passages, consider Jesus' mercy and compassion to you and his church (Lk 1:50, 51, 52, 54/77, Rom 8:26, 28, 1 Cor 10:13, Mt 11:28). Praise him for such mercy!

Thursday: Lk 1:54-55. Luke 10:37 is the only other place in Luke the noun "mercy" is used. How did the Good Samaritan reach out his hand and extend mercy? If that is what God has done to us in Christ, how should we respond to God (Lk 1:46-47)? Believe today that you are under God's mercy (Eph 2:4f). Praise God in song or prayer for his mercy to you, and the church.

Friday: Lk 1:54-55. Because of God's rich mercy, the Christian's heart can't help but spill out mercy. How can you do this by sharing about this mercy (1 Tim 1:16)? What about showing mercy, care, and compassion to someone in the church? What about showing care and mercy to someone outside of the church? Plan to do this.

Saturday: Read Luke 1:57-80. How did the unique birth of John prepare people for Christ's birth?