

Morning Worship

December 17, 2017

Worship Leader — Don Beavers Piano — Marcia Hart

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 Don/People

Hymn # 87 *Joy to the World* Don/People

Worship Prayer Allan Lane

Welcome and Fellowship Allan/People

Chorus # 177 *There's Something About That Name* Don/People

Missions Moment *28 Million People ... One Team*

Hymn # 100 *Angels We Have Heard on High* Don/People

Hymn # 90 *Carols Sing* Don/People

Offering Prayer Fred Kerns

Offering Music Marcia Hart

Anthem *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Worship

Scripture Reading Luke 1:46-56 Allan/People

Message *Mary's Song* Allan Lane

Luke 1:46-56

Hymn # 315 *Room at the Cross* Don/People

Chorus # 427 *For He Alone Is Worthy* Don/People

Mary's Song

Luke 1:46-56

The woman picked to be the mother of God's Son is an example of the surprising methods of God. Like Elizabeth, she marvels at the mercy God has shown her. This is why Christians celebrate God's mercy and grace at Christmas. Through His mercy we see ...

1. God's Kindness . Luke 1:46-48

This song has been called the Magnificat. That's the Latin translation of the word "glorify." The word (megaluno) means, "to cause to grow, expand, or swell up." Mary just lost her reputation of purity. Who would believe her story? The 21st century woman may not value a reputation for purity, but for Mary it could mean life or death. It certainly determined if her future was going to be good or bad. Mary had experienced a depth of God's mercy that is so great, so expansive that it overwhelmed all the potentially terrible things this premarital pregnancy could cause in her life. Yet what Mary believed about God caused such joy that she had to sing about it. Think of the hymns we sing at Christmas time. These hymns are nothing more than someone being overwhelmed with their understanding of the kindness and goodness of God and putting it into song. "Joy to the World, the Lord has come, let earth receive her King." Can you hear the doctrine and the joy?

What do you believe about God's goodness and grace? Meditate on it this Christmas season. Let it become your song as God enlarges your knowledge and experience of His mercy.

What causes Mary to glorify the Lord and rejoice in her spirit is found in verse 48. What surprised Mary about God's mercy was that "He has been mindful" of her. The word means, "to turn the eyes upon," "to gaze at," and "to pay attention." In Luke 9, a desperate father uses this word when he begs Jesus to look upon his demon-possessed son. He is asking Jesus to heal the boy. Jesus does.

This picture is used throughout the Old Testament (Isa. 40:27). When God turns His face to look upon his people it means he will be their Deliverer and strength and hope. Mary's life was transformed by this visitation of the angel Gabriel. What Mary is testifying in song is that right now God is personally visiting you and me. Of all the billions on earth, He looks at you this morning as though you were the only person on the face of the earth. He looks at you with mercy and kindness.

No wonder she surrendered to the Lord as His servant. She would trust Him to care for her as she carried and cared for the Son of God. In fact, she has such a thorough understanding of what is taking place, she says in faith that all future generations would call her the most blessed woman whoever lived, and they do.

2. God's Character . Luke 1:49-50

Mary's thoughts turn from thankfulness of what God has done for her to thoughts about God Himself. She lists three characteristics of God's character. It doesn't matter that she is a nobody; the God who is at work is **mighty, holy, and merciful**.

The conception of the Messiah in her womb is one expression of His **mighty**. The angel had told her earlier that nothing is impossible with God.

This time of the year reminds us of a way that Christ demonstrates He is the Mighty One. When our families gather for the holidays many of us will have an empty chair that a loved one occupied. This child of Mary's is so mighty He breaks the power of death and promises we will one day be reunited with our saved loved ones. That power never wanes.

The second characteristic is the **holiness** of God. Fundamentally, the word "holy" means separate one. He is different than us. We are sinful. He is sinless. We are morally imperfect. He is morally perfect.

"Name" refers to His person. Everything about God is holy. His love is holy. He exercises His power in holiness. We are assured that every thing He does and chooses not to do is right and good.

Mary's God is also **merciful**. He shows us undeserved compassion though we are sinners. One of the great promises of the Christian faith is God is with us. We speak

and sing about Immanuel. But the only reason that is a great promise of encouragement is because of the kind of God that is with us. Just because someone is near doesn't mean it is comforting. You know that's true. There are some folks you'd rather be alone in a mausoleum with than to have their company. We celebrate the nearness of God because the God who is near is powerful, absolutely good, and compassionate toward sinners.

3. God's Control . Luke 1:51-53

More than one Bible student has seen an echo of the Beatitudes of Jesus in this song. The Beatitudes speak of God reversing human values and power structures. Mary sang, "He has scattered the proud." Jesus taught, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Mary sang, "He has lifted up the humble." Jesus taught, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." Mary sang, "He has filled the hungry." Jesus taught, "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." It causes us to wonder if that part of the Sermon on the Mount came from Jesus hearing His mother sing that song to Him as she rocked him to sleep or while cleaning around the house. It's possible the first theology taught to Jesus was Mary's song.

David Aikman, formerly of Time magazine, in 2002 spent three months researching the state of Christianity in China. He tells an incredible story. The Chinese church after fifty years of persecution and repression was thriving. When the Communist took control of China five decades earlier the Christian church was estimated to be four million believers. The estimate then, though difficult to determine, was somewhere around 80 million Christians. That's a huge increase in the church during a time when China's population tripled. However, 15 years later, the estimate is there are over 200 million Christians today in China. WOW! We wish we'd see that kind of growth in our land.

For many the past year may not have been a year of celebration. Health, family, marriage, and jobs have reminded them just how little control we have over our lives. While we attempt to make things better often our efforts fail. If you are in this category you understand the world that Mary was born into when she sings this song of celebration of God's mercy. People like Mary were the puppets of Herod, the High Priest, the Emperor of Rome, and the chief tax collector of her area. They had no control over their life. They were hungry, downtrodden, and there was little they could do about it.

People question if God is in charge, then why is there cancer? Why divorce? Why no job? Why are they going through so much?

Sorry, but those questions are hard to answer. But we do have Mary's answer. She says just like Herod didn't have the last word neither does cancer, divorce, or the loss of job has the last word. God has the last word. God did not send his Son to just rule over the spiritual dimension of life. God sent his Son to rule over the entire universe. His reign has begun; one day it will be completed.

Hold on to your faith. One day He will wipe every tear from your eyes. One day He will remove all the pain from your body. One day you will be with loved ones and sing of the mercy and grace of God around the throne, and never again will there be a teary farewell. One day all the injustices and wrongs will be made right. Mary sings because this world as we know it will one day be turned upside down and made right side up.

4. God's Covenant . Luke 1:54-55

Basically, Mary is saying that God is not doing something new, but He is continuing His mercy to Abraham. This is what God promised Abraham. God made an

unconditional promise to Abraham that He would make His name great and that His descendants would bless the world.

If there were any group of people that tested God's willingness to rescind His promise it would be Israel. Over and over they rebelled against God, but He never wavered in his commitment to them. He kept His promise with Abraham and his descendants.

A covenant is more than a contract. Implied in a covenant is the promise you won't forget your pledge. A wedding ring is symbol to remind married couples of the vows of permanency for better or worse, richer or poorer, in sickness or health, 'til death do us part. The ring reminds us that we vowed we wouldn't forget to love, honor, and cherish. God covenant's to keep His promise to all believers. He promises to never to forget them but to bless them.

Actually, the promise goes back farther than that. Six thousand years ago God made a promise to an old man and his childless wife that he would use them to eventually bring a Redeemer for sinners such as me and you. Two thousand years ago there was a trial and execution that resulted in a man stepping out of the grave three days later. God's promise to Abraham was kept and He remembered it when He saved you and me.

Our faith is ancient but all that the centuries have done is witness that we have believed in a promise keeping God that meets the timeless needs of the human soul. He is the God of great mercy, and we glorify His holy name.

Conclusion:

As a nation, we are in a mess economically. A few years ago there was a bailout for certain companies and programs that were *too big to fail*, whatever that means. All the bailout did was to prolong the problem and, in my mind, make it worse. A bailout doesn't fix the problem. It was a band aid on a gaping wound and didn't slow down the bleeding.

This week Congress is proposing a new tax plan that is supposed to put more money in the pockets of taxpayers and make *America Great Again*. But how great can we be when there is a twenty trillion dollar deficit? Our nation has a debt that it cannot even begin to comprehend, let alone pay. No one seems to really understand or agree what needs to be done. We have hope that something will change, but it doesn't look like it will happen soon. One website says that if every family paid \$157,000 we could erase the debt. Good luck with that.

In comparison, we can't even begin to understand the debt we owe to our God, the creator of the universe. We are all sinners who have broken His commands, done things our own way, and rebelled while doing it. Yet in His great love He sent His Son to earth to save us. Salvation is not a bailout; it is a wipeout! In Jesus Christ our debt is forgiven. It is so simple that even I can understand it and explain it.

It's hard to find a truly humble person. Mary said, "He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty."

Hudson Taylor was scheduled to speak at a Large Presbyterian church in Melbourne, Australia. The moderator of the service introduced the missionary in eloquent and glowing terms. He told the large congregation all that Taylor had accomplished in China, and then presented him as "our illustrious guest." Taylor stood quietly for a moment, and then opened his message by saying, "Dear friends, I am the little servant of an illustrious Master."

Oh, may we humble ourselves before the Lord as Mary did and surrender our will to His this Christmas season.

It's Hard to Find a Truly Humble Person!

Christmas Gives Us Self-Worth

The world's most incredible announcement came to an unknown, quiet, humble young woman in the back quarters of Judea – from the unknown town of Nazareth. An angel came to visit her. In fact, we even know the name of that angel. Gabriel came to Mary to announce that she would have a child and that this child would be the Son of the Most High God. She was to name Him Jesus, or in Hebrew, Jeshua, which sounds like Joshua – which means Yahweh Saves. He would have no earthly biological father. She would conceive by the Spirit of God.

You might say Mary was really nobody. She knew she was unworthy of such a blessing. And she was right. It's a problem to elevate her too highly. The point of the Gospel is that God only uses people who understand that they are not worthy and without God they are nothing.

God is in the habit of using nobodies like Mary. Think of whom God had used in the past. Moses was a little boy who was destined to die. His mother had put him into a basket to float among the swamp grass. Pharaoh had ordered all the babies to be killed. He was saved only by God's grace. David was the little kid who had been assigned to taking care of his father's sheep, while all of his big brothers went to fight the Philistines. He was the least likely of his family to be anything important. Gideon, one of Israel's greatest warriors, was called of God to deliver Israel. His response was, "I'm the least important kid in the least important family, in the weakest country in the world." Gideon knew he was nobody. God simply said, "Yeah! I know. But I will be with you."

The Bible is full of such illustrations where those who thought there were really somebody became a nobody, and those who knew they were a nobody became someone powerful, simply because God chose them and empowered them.

Today's society wants to tell us all that we really are "somebody." Self-worth and ego boosting are commonplace. Pumping people up and even putting them on a pedestal is popular. We want our children to feel good about themselves. It has become one of the highest values in education today.

But self-worth itself becomes worthless, if the self-worth is followed by Godless and evil behavior, or even it results in simply ignoring God. It is not good for a person to feel so great about themselves that they don't need God, do not need salvation, and do not need to repent of anything. Godless, ruthless dictators down through the ages have not seemed to have suffered from low self-esteem. Children who misbehave and disrespect authority yet they seem not to suffer from low self-esteem. We can have drug dealers who seem to feel just fine about themselves. The highest good of man is not that they have self-esteem, but that they recognize that without God they are nothing, but by humbling themselves before God they can become something.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice,

Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: ? ? ? ?

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 20

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Worship Team 6:30 pm

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Choir Rehearsal.....9:00 am

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough,

Joseph Coats, ? ? ? ?

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 27

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team 6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

December 24 — Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm

December 25 — Christmas

December 31 — New Year's Eve Service 6:30 pm

January 1, 2018 — Happy New Year!

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will meet tonight,

Sunday, December 17th. We will view another sermon by Dr. Richard Wurmbrand.

Please join us next Sunday, December 24, for a Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 pm.

**Wednesday Night Prayer
and Bible Study**

Come pray for the direction of our church. Also, we have been experiencing an

online Bible Study with Max Lucado entitled ***Because of Bethlehem***. Please plan to attend and pray at 6:30 pm.

Adopt-A-Family

Calvary Baptist is adopting two families for Christmas this year. If you would like to donate funds to help purchase the needed items please see Nancy McCamy or Pam Battreal.

Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering

This month we will emphasize this offering for International Missions. Our church goal is \$1,700.00. So far to date we have received \$840.00.

CHRISTMAS CARD BOXES IN THE HALLWAY

You may exchange Christmas Cards among your church family by placing your cards in the boxes in the hallway. Then contribute the postage you save to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering!

Thank You

**Thank you for your recent
donation of food products to meet the needs of the families who come for help.
Have a Wonderful Holiday Season.**

**God Bless You
Maggie Wall**

Patee Park Baptist Church Food Pantry

For the Record-

Attendance: December 10, 2017

Sunday School.....	26
Visitors.....	1
Total.....	27
Contacts Made.....	7
Morning Worship.....	39
Children's Worship.....	15
Sunday Night	N/A
Wednesday Night	14

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 1,871.13
Lottie Moon.....	\$ 840.00
Long Family-Nov.....	\$ 181.00

Offering Received by Mail:

Eric and Shelly Thompson

December Counting Team:

Don Beavers and Jordan Lane

December Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

December Member Birthdays:

03 ... Brent Fortune
08 ... Madeline Swink
09 ... Allison Adkinson
11 ... George Ferbert
15 ... George Burgess
16 ... Addison Leichti
16 ... Doris Richardson
19 ... Jessica Kirkpatrick
20 ... Leona Reynolds
20 ... Brenda Burgess
23 ... Joseph Coats

December Anniversaries

Bill and Alva Lou Schottel
December 22, 1962

Prayer Requests ...

Rachael & Erin Molloy and Family
Brigida Winans—heel surgery
Mike Green—knee recovery
Arlette Duty—carpal tunnel
Gina Harr—surgery recovery
Joe Coats—pacemaker
Don Beavers—heart and health
Van Meter family
Curtis Conard—recovery
Emily Jones & baby
Gary & Peggy Fewins and family
Chad Bradford—heart surgery
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family
The Waters Family—guidance
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Shawna Hughes—home isolation
Gary and Sharon Yarbrough
Larry Danner—cancer
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Troy Griswold—cancer treatment
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister

Rev. A. B. Brown	Betty Campbell
George Ferbert	Kevin Duty
Ellen Blanton	Lois Ulmer
Jim Winans	Nellie Reynolds Madeline Swink
Kathryn Beavers	Keon McKahan
Louanne Laurence	Leona Reynolds
Jozy Winans	Kenny Duty
Pat Means	Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita	Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett	Judy Anderson
Brenda Burgess	Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts	Tim Izer
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church	
David and Deborah Grace	
Our Nation and Leaders	
Our Military Service people	
Today's Prayer Requests ...	Ann Riddle

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
