

Advent 4 Scripture Reflection

Scriptures for this week are:

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Canticle 15, Magnificat page 91 in the BCP or Luke 46-55

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

This week Renee Ellerbroek will lead our discussion. Here are some questions we can think about on our own and Wednesday morning.

Mary's song of praise (Luke 1:46-55) is a response to Elizabeth's words in the previous passage (Luke 1:39 through 45).

- How amazing that God put these two women together to share their joy (as well as maybe a few other topics on their minds!)
- I find it interesting that the pregnancy took away disgrace from Elizabeth (1:25), but potentially introduced great disgrace for Mary and Joseph and their families. Yet, they celebrated together.

Mary had joy despite extremely challenging circumstances.

- What things are stated in verses 46 to 49 that speak to the condition of her heart?
- How can we use these to prepare our hearts for acceptance and joy regardless of difficulties?

Compare Zechariah's response to the angel (1:18 through 20) and Mary's (1:38 and 46-55).

- What might we learn and apply?
- What contrasting elements do you notice in verses 1:51-53?
- Which groups are most valued in God's economy? How does this align with our cultural values?
- What do you imagine God prays for us about this?

4. Mary ponders and celebrates the presence of Jesus within her, having already accepted His power, His holiness and His mercy as a done deal.

- If I were to accept this most wonderful Christmas gift and enjoy it to the fullest what would have to happen in me?