

Third Week:

PREPARE YOUR SONG

Luke 1:39-55

You cannot celebrate Christ's Advent without singing.

Luke 1:39-40

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.

Luke 1:41-45

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 see, 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."

Luke 1:46-50

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 see, 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.

Luke 1:51-55

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."

"Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!"

(Psalm 96:1-3)

"Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for. The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God." (Psalm 98:1-3)

"I Heard the Bells of Christmas Day"

By William Wadsworth Longfellow

I heard the bells on Christmas day.
Their old familiar carols play.
And wild and sweet the words repeat
of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

And thought how, as the day had come, the belfries of all Christendom Had rolled along the unbroken song of peace on earth, goodwill to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth, the cannon thundered in the South, And with the sound the carols drowned of peace on earth, goodwill to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent, the hearth-stones of a continent, And made forlorn the households born of peace on earth, goodwill to men!

And in despair, I bowed my head.
There is no peace on earth, I said.
For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: God is not dead, nor does He sleep. The Wrong shall fail. The Right prevail with peace on earth, goodwill to men.