Magnificat 2015

Kalamazoo Mennonite Fellowship

December 20, 2015

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Luke 1:39-55

1:46b “My soul magnifies the Lord,

1:47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

1:48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

1:49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

1:50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

1:51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

1:52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

1:53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

1:54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

1:55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Mary’s song of praise is one of the four great songs of Luke’s Christmas narrative. Luke records this song she sing as Jesus quickens in her womb.

Several times in the gospels, Mary is recorded as “pondering these things in her heart.” This song reflects, I think, some of her ponderings, and it is delightful to be present to hear these things.

Let’s ponder this together.

1. Sit in silence, know that God is God
2. Invite the Holy Spirit’s presence
3. 46b – 47. Mary’s declaration about what she is doing: “magnifying the Lord” and “rejoicing”
4. 48 – 49. Mary’s first reason: what God has done for her.
   1. What reasons does Mary have to be discouraged and feel like she doesn’t want to praise God?
   2. What reasons does Mary give for praise?
   3. Time for “pondering”: What discouragements are you facing, and what reasons for praise do you have?
5. 50 – 55. Mary’s second reason: what God has done for Israel and those who “fear God from generation to generation.”
   1. What reasons do Israel have to be discouraged and feel like she doesn’t want to praise God?
   2. What reasons does Mary give for praise?
   3. Time for pondering: What fears and discouragement does our culture face? What reasons do we have for praise?
   4. Time for pondering: How can Mary be an example to you this week?