



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Advent: Zechariah & Elizabeth

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Luke 1:67-80

⁶⁷ His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:
⁶⁸ "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.
⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn^[a] of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David
⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
⁷¹ salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us—
⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,
⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace."
⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit^[d]; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared
publicly to Israel.

(NIV)

Sermon Outline:

Advent is a time of hopeful waiting – waiting on the arrival of Jesus Christ and the time when Jesus Christ will make everything new.

Waiting is a very hard thing for most, if not all, of us to do. Waiting reminds us that we are not in control as much as we think we are in control.

"Waiting patiently is the foundation of the spiritual life."

-Simone Weil

In the scriptures, we repeatedly find people who are waiting.

It does not make a difference what stage of life we are in, as God comes to people at all stages of their lives. The call for us is to be attentive to the coming of Christ.

Zechariah – Whom the Lord remembers

Elizabeth – My God is abundance

Zechariah is visited by an angel and told that he and Elizabeth will have a son, but Zechariah does not believe what he is told. Because of his unbelief, he is not able to speak for a many months. It is only when he names his son, that he is once again able to speak.

A faithful response to waiting is prayer.

Advent reminds us that we are often not faithful in our waiting, but God is faithful in his coming.

We live in the tension of God making good on His promises while also living with the immense suffering and pain that takes place in our world.

John – God is Gracious

When life doesn't unfold the way you want it to or hope it does, God is gracious!

When you think about Zechariah's song, it makes sense why he needed to write a song to declare the praises of God in a song.

When you know someone's story, you can appreciate their song.

If we were honest with one another, we would tell the story of God's faithfulness, provision, and salvation over our lives.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, continues our sermon series on Advent. Pastor Rich explores the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth paying attention to the challenge of waiting on God and how important this is in our lives today.

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today's scripture passage? Do any of the words resonate with you? If so, why?
2. How do you feel about waiting? Being honest with yourself, are you the type of person who longs to wait or are you someone who prefers to not have to wait?
3. Where and what are you waiting for in your life right now? Are you waiting for something to happen in your personal life, maybe it has to do with your profession or with your finances? Find time this week to be with God and hold this before Him asking for wisdom and discernment in this area of your life.
4. Have you been praying to God and feeling as though He has not heard your prayers? Are you able to hold on to God in your waiting and frustration, especially if your life is not lining up the way that you had hoped it would be? Continue offering your prayers to God being in communion with Him. Know that God hears your prayers!