



still waters

Luke 1.39-45

home church studies
[Worship]

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child 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 by the Lord."



Consider:

Love & Good News Among the Lowly —

[Words]

The prophet Micah sings and hopes for little Bethlehem. That tiny village, located in the small clan territory of Ephrathah, was a vulnerable territory, exposed to many army forays. But that vulnerable village and clan territory, says Micah, will "live secure" in time to come, because a new ruler/shepherd will feed, guard, protect, and sustain them. The Bible is relentless in its conviction that God will side, eventually, with the little ones.

Out of that faith, Mary sings! Empire must have told Micah (and then Mary) that such hope is absurd in the world of real power. But Mary, trusting the angel, believes that nothing will be impossible for God (Luke 1:37). And so she sings! She sings about "the hungry," the ones cut out of the food chain and denied access to the world's great granaries. Mary knew what Micah knew, what Israel always knew, and what the church knows in Advent. The weak and vulnerable will be "lifted up." The poetry and the song invite us to move out beyond the world given us by "the hard men," and into a new, different world. We may, in anticipation, already act in and for that new age. Already now, in such anticipation, folk in Bethlehem can lean back in confidence. Folk around Mary can hope and sing. And the rest of us, while we wait, may be alongside the hungry and lowly who will be honored by the new reality of the Christ-child.

[Scripture]

Luke 1.46-55

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 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 powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."