

# **Sermon: December 12, 2021**

## **“Singing Mary Song”**

### **by Lucy Brady**

#### **Luke 1:26-38**

**26** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one! The Lord is with you.” **29** But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. **30** The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32** He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. **33** He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” **34** Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” **35** The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. **36** And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God.” **38** Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

#### **Sermon “Singing Mary Song”**

##### **The Story**

###### **Part 1**

###### **Mary and the Angel**

I was just sitting and weaving and daydreaming about Joseph. Joseph a kind hearted God-fearing man. Joseph and Mary. Mary the wife of Joseph. I was thinking about how soon I would be leaving my parents house and Joseph and I would be moving into our house when suddenly I had a feeling like somebody was watching me. When I looked up, however, there was no one there.

I went back to weaving, and dreaming.

Then I heard a soft rustling sound and when I looked up and there was a stranger standing in my house! I was terrified. You know that feeling you get when you're having a dream and you know you are supposed to run because of danger, but you can't move?

There was a stranger in my house and I was frozen in place! The stranger tried to calm my fear and said,

“Hail Mary full of Grace, you have found favor with God.”

Who was this guy? I wondered. Definitely a stranger. None of the local boys talk like that.

Then he said, “Do not be afraid.”

Even though I was still afraid, I felt a kind of peace come over me.

He said he was Gabriel, an angel sent from God with a message for me. He went on to say that he had good news that would be for all people. I would have a baby, a son, and this baby would be holy. This baby would be God's child and I was to name him Jesus. He would be great, the son of the most High God.

I was stunned. “But ..but.. but. -I've never been— I am promised to Joseph.”

Gabriel continued speaking as though it all made perfect sense.

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.”

I listened and I don't know I'm why, but I felt convinced and replied. “Let it be according to God's word.” When I looked again Angel was gone.

There would be no more weaving today.

A baby! How was I going to tell Joseph? As I said he's a good man. Joseph is a God-fearing man, and very kind. But he likes things he can touch and see. Like wood and a saw or a hammer. Although, as I think of it, he is a bit of a visionary. He can look at a piece of wood and actually see the chair or table that he will make with it. Angel visitations, I don't know how he can understand that. I can barely understand myself!

The law says I can be stoned. I don't know what to do.

I wish I could talk to my mother. Would she believe me? Will she lecture me about who, and when, and where? Will she shame me, or have the whole town shun me?

I don't know what to do!! I need somebody I can talk to, but who will believe me?

But wait- that Angel said something about my kinswoman, Elizabeth. I remember that she and Zachariah never had children and now they were both older.

The angel said she was six months o pregnant. I'd like to go talk to Elizabeth, I think she would understand. It would be really dangerous to travel through the hill country, but It doesn't feel very safe here. I'll do it! I'll go see Elizabeth!

## **Part 2**

Mary travels to see Elizabeth

"I'll Go Tell Elizabeth" song by Ken Medema

Here is the YouTube link:

<https://youtu.be/x2xMnalGzv4>

So many things are happening to me that I don't understand – Visions and angels and a baby named Jesus – It's not what I planned; The plans I have made are like birds' nests blown down in the wind and the rain; And they're scattered like straw, and I can't quite tell where to find saneness again- saneness again

***Chorus: I'll go tell Elizabeth, she'll understand. I'll go tell Elizabeth, She'll hold my hand – she'll understand.***

"Go talk to Joseph." Well I've talked to Joseph and Joseph's a man;

So many things that a woman can know that a man never can.

Joseph is practical by and Joseph is worried with things of his own.

And talking to Joseph is sometimes no better than being alone – being alone.

### ***Chorus***

Sometimes I wish I could wake and discover it all was a dream;

I ought to be shouting for joy, yet I'm falling apart at the seams.

Mostly I'm quiet – I keep things inside me –that's how I get by.

But it's too much to handle, and I need someone near me to share a good cry – share a good cry.

### ***Chorus***

So many things that are happening to me, I don't understand. Visions of Angels and this baby named Jesus -it's not what I planned

The plans I had made are like birds' nest blown down in the wind and the rain.

And I'm scattered like straw, and I can't quite tell where to find saneness again – saneness again.

***Chorus repeat to end***

**Part 3**

Mary and Elizabeth

**Mary:** I see their home! I did it! I hope she's there. Elizabeth. Elizabeth are you home? It's Mary Anna's and Joachim's daughter.

**Elizabeth:** Mary? What are you doing here? Come in child, I just made some tea.

What is going on?

**Mary:** oh Elizabeth, strange things have happened to me, and I need to talk to someone who will believe me.

**Elizabeth:** I will believe you, Mary.

**Mary:** Well this Angel ...

**Elizabeth** Was his name, Gabriel?

**Mary:** YES!

**Elizabeth:** I know about God's messengers! In fact Mary, when you called out to me, the baby moved - more like leapt, in my womb. Don't be afraid Mary.

**Mary:** That's what the angel told me Elizabeth, "Do not be afraid!" He had a message from God for me and said that I was going to birth the Savior of the world. Could this be the one we've been waiting for Elizabeth; the anointed one of God! I'm so confused!?

Elizabeth: I don't have all the answers Mary, but I do know that since the Angel visited Zechariah, everything has happened exactly the way the angel told us it would. This is a mystery and we will need to trust in the God of our ancestors as we have always done.

Mary: Oh, thank you Elizabeth, coming to tell you was the right thing to do, I don't feel so afraid anymore. To think that you and I are both part of God's plan! Just a few days ago I was terrified and confused and now, I am bursting with joy, a joy I cannot contain!

@My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

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

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

#### **Part 4**

##### Singing Mary's Song

Mary's song echoes down through the ages as she sings, "My soul magnifies the Lord," she declares her faith in the God of her ancestors and has accepted God's call to be the Christ bearer to the world.

When we sing her song, when we feel God's presence so big in our lives, we know we are called, like Mary, to bear Christ to the world in our homes, in our communities and wherever people are suffering.

Imagine what we can do if we listen to the voice of an angel is bringing us God's message and filling us with a willingness to accept God's call.