

THE SONGS OF LUKE: AN ADVENT JOURNEY

The **First Advent**... awaiting the **birth** of the Messiah.

A girl of great faith... a priest with faltering faith... an old man rewarded for faith.

The **Second Advent**... awaiting the **return** of the Messiah.

A world with shaken faith.

THE MAGNIFICAT

LUKE 1:26-56

THE BENEDICTUS

LUKE 1:5-25; 57-80

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

LUKE 2:22-38

A girl of great faith... we all know the story of a young Jewish girl who said “Yes!” to God during an incredible encounter with an angel. We also know the beautiful song that sprang forth from her heart. From the start of the angelic encounter through Mary's return home after tending to her cousin Elizabeth, we see numerous lessons that we can apply to our lives today.

A priest with faltering faith... who could blame Zechariah? An angel who tells him that his longtime prayer for a son would be fulfilled even though his wife was so far advanced in years. Who could blame his sense of doubt? His doubt led to a “God-given discipline” resulting in his inability to speak until the naming of that long-awaited son. His subsequent obedience leads to freedom!

An old man rewarded for faith... Simeon is one of the lesser known people we see in the entire Bible but certainly a man of great faith. How many times had he gone down to the Temple to see if the promised Messiah was being presented yet? How did he know that this particular Child was the One? And what about the prophetess Anna? What a witness she gives!

A common thread uniting these Scriptures that we take time to point out is the very active presence of the Holy Spirit. How active is the Holy Spirit in our lives today?

“The Songs of Luke”... thought-provoking, reflective, challenging, engaging, and perhaps most of all: **relevant**.