

We also see in Mary & Elizabeth the Missional heart of God...we are blessed to be a blessing...

So how can we help others 'come home' to Christ's love in this and other generations, whether we are parents or not?

I LOVE YOU
I MISS YOU
PLEASE
COME HOME

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Sermon Notes

Deuteronomy 4:9-10

Luke 1:46-55

Mothering Sunday

life in all its fullness

John 10:10

2 minutes silence centring thoughts on Christ before praising God.

Readings:

Deuteronomy 4:9-10

Luke 1:46-55

It's easy to get the real meaning of Mothering Sunday lost in translation. Mothering Sunday traditionally was the day when all people returned to their 'Mother Church' to give thanks for their faith. In our secular society Mothering Sunday is often referred to as Mother's Day but we will focus on the theme of 'coming home' to Christ.

Where is your Mother Church? (Where you came to Faith)

As you know, we are in the period of Lent.

Share any helpful experiences this Lent period has given you so far.

A Christian author said

"Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer."

Looking at Luke a key verse that summarises the theme of the book is Luke 19:10 'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.'

What is the main theme of the reading from Luke 1:46-55 for you?

Mary's Song is often referred to as The Magnificat. This is the first word of Mary's song & from Latin means 'to magnify'.

In v46 we see Mary praising God:

'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.'

Mary's song is all about magnifying Jesus.

How do we magnify God in the highs and lows of life?

In v36 the Angel told Mary that 'even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age.'

Maybe it was an implied instruction from the Angel to Mary that prompted the visit to Elizabeth.

Who is your 'go-to person' in significant moments for support (physical, emotional or spiritual)?

Is there anything else that could help, such as a prayer partner/network?

This passage has many similarities with the Song of Hannah (1 Samuel 1:1-10) Theologians comment that Mary probably used words in her 'song' already familiar in Jewish praise.

What Christian traditions help you praise God?

John Wesley, leader of the Methodist Movement in the late 18th century & author of hundreds of hymns we sing today, talked about 4 sources that influence our understanding of God: Scripture, reason, tradition and experience (known as the 'Wesleyan Quadrilateral').

What one of the above 4 influences is the strongest at SJS? There is no wrong answer!

Elizabeth & Mary were both very open to experience God in their lives & be used by Him.

How open am I to allow the Holy Spirit to work in my life today?