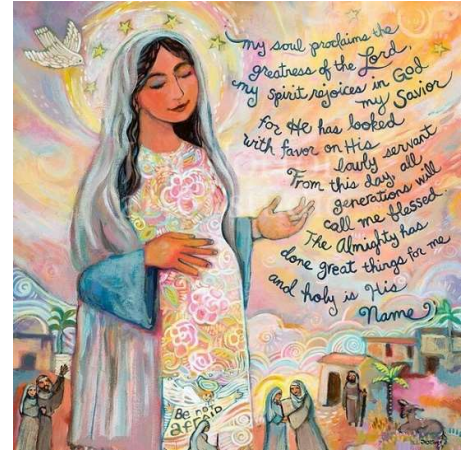




ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH

PRAYERS AND REFLECTION

JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2025



**Based On Luke 1:46-55**

### **Mary's Song of Praise**

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name;

<sup>50</sup> indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;

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

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones

and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has come to the aid of his child Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Lord what a joy it has been to revisit and reflect on Mary's song today. I wholeheartedly thank you for the words of Mary who, in her humility and faith so beautifully proclaimed your greatness. I pray that Mary's continues to inspire my heart to see with open eyes and hear with open ears your goodness and mercy in my life. Help me to echo her words, glorifying you in all we do and serving others with love and compassion. Open my heart to the ways you are always working in and among me, and fill me with the same joy and reverence that gracefully flowed from Mary. Lord, hear my prayer of praise for you in the hope of bringing glory and honour to your name. amen

### **PRAYER POINTS OF THANKS AND PRAISE**

- Thank you for the beauty, encouragement and comfort found in words.

- Thank you for giving strength to weak, and justice for the poor.
  - Thank you for promises made are promises kept.
  - Thank you for the humility and grace in those who emulate the love of Christ in their lives.
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- I give you praise for honesty and leadership
  - I give you praise for the mercy you show each of us
  - I give you praise for the gift of the Holy Spirit who leads your church
  - I give you praise for the many people who I share my faith with daily

### **PRAYER POINTS FOR PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

- Forgive my selfish arrogance and the moments I don't glorify you instead bringing glory to human achievements and outcomes.
- Forgive my feelings of fear and doubts
- Forgive lack of faithful imagination on what God can do
- Forgive me for the times when my eyes, ears, and mouth are closed to sharing your good news.

### **WORDS OF GRACE**

In the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom; for God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Hear then Christ's word of grace to us: 'Your sins are forgiven.' Amen

### **REFLECTION**

A short reflect for this week as we turn to a very familiar Christmas song commonly known as The Magnificat.

The Magnificat, beautifully expresses Mary's deep humility, joy and great faith in God. In today's reading Mary exclaims, "My soul glorifies the Lord," revealing her deep and very personal connection to God and her recognition of the greatness of God. The song is a powerful acknowledgment of God's faithfulness and mercy, not just in the life of Mary, but one that continues right through history.

The Magnificat is like a tapestry of many coloured threads each one giving a key aspect of God's character: God's concern for the humble, God's power to uplift those who live ordinary lives, and God's justice for those who are oppressed. Mary proclaims that God has "*filled the hungry with good things*" however, for those who are rich they leave empty, emphasising a divine reversal of what we consider to be normal social structures. In this, she reflects God's love and concern for the marginalised and reminds us of the importance of compassion, empathy and justice.

Mary's song is richly rooted in her lived experiences. As a young seemingly insignificant woman in a patriarchal society, her acceptance of God's call clearly shows us all just how deeply important her faith was to her. By proclaiming God's goodness and mercy, she becomes a voice for those who may feel voiceless and very small in today's levels of hierarchy, social media, and ideological discourse just to name a few. Mary encourages us all not to be afraid to put our trust in God's promises and to recognise God's activities in a damaged and violent world. When we look for and see the characteristics of God we can be encouraged to know that love, grace and peace still exist.

The Magnificat invites us to reflect on our own lives and how we respond to God's call. It calls us to adopt a posture of humility and gratitude, celebrating God's blessings while seeking to serve others. I read a post the other day which said, "If you can't serve, then you can't lead." Throughout Jesus' life, God's Son both served and lead people to a better and more just way of life and death. As his faithful followers in a world often focused on power, success, and material wealth, Mary's song offers a radical reminder of the values of the Kingdom of God – hope, love, mercy, and an upliftment of the humble, urging us to join in the song of praise and become instruments of God's hope and grace in a world in need.

Amen

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

Lord of the heavens and the earth, I come to you today with a full of gratitude as I sit and ponder on Mary's beautiful song of praise. I thank you for her example of faith, humility, and once again, I surrender my life to you, to you to use as you will.

Lord, I lift up those in our communities who feel marginalised, overlooked, or forgotten. Just as Mary emphasised your care for the humble and lowly, I ask that you touch their lives with your love and grace. May they find hope and strength in you, knowing they are valued and cherished.

The violence, hate and greed continues to bring destruction to so many nations across the world. I pray for the Spirit of Peace to intervene where no one else can and bring Holy Glory into the space where cold and hearts are trying to claim as their own. I turn to the prophet Habakkuk who faced his own time of violence with interlopers, and you intervened and brought eventual peace.

Lord, I bring before you those who are struggling with rough sleeping, hunger and need. May your generous spirit inspire me to act with compassion and respond to the physical and spiritual needs of others. help me to be an instrument of mercy, sharing my blessings and advocating for social justice in a world that often overlooks the vulnerable.

Creator God, I pray for those who seek to glorify you in their lives, like Mary, and for those who are uncertain about their paths. Encourage them to trust in your plans, believing that with you nothing is impossible. Grant them confidence in your promises and a spirit of praise that overflows in their actions.

One more thing, Lord, I ask that you fill my heart with the joy and reverence that Mary speaks of in her song. May I echo her words in my lives, bringing glory to your name in all that I do. Help me to proclaim your greatness not only through my words but also through my actions, always acting as a reflection of your love in this very troubling world. In the name of the risen Christ Jesus.

Amen

A beautiful song and a beautiful peaceful sound

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i85XG4OwQ8s>

