



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

December 18, 2022: The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Mary's Song of Praise: Luke 1:46-56

And Mary said,

*"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state 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;
indeed, 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 imagination 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 come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."*

And Mary remained with [Elizabeth] about three months and then returned to her home.

Peace: the 4th Week of Advent

Mary's beautiful poem of praise is commonly called the Magnificat, from the Latin for "magnify." Mary "magnifies" – proclaims - God's greatness and rejoices that God has chosen such a "lowly" person to bring the Messiah into the world. In awe she recognizes that not only Elizabeth but all generations throughout time will call her blessed.



Notice how Mary's words celebrate the Messiah as a peacemaker, not as maker of war. God's coming kingdom will not be led by an armored king, but will be a Messiah of redemption, one who fills the hungry, clothes the needy, and heals the sick ... beginning here on earth.

Both in Mary's song and in Jesus' ministry we see the God who welcomes us loves us as we are but does not leave us as we are. Mary's song magnifies the Savior who loves the whole world with a love that makes creation whole. In this Advent season we patiently await, Emmanuel, God who will be with us.

Prayer for all Peacemakers in the Fourth Week of Advent

*Lord, lighten the loads of your peacemakers. Be their light to brighten the darkness. Offer them glimpses of hope. Help them be kind to themselves. Show them the way of peace when it is hard to identify. Grant them peace within themselves. Keep them safe. May their work and their spirit be contagious. Lord, give them rest! **Amen.***

Let us keep in our prayers: our loved ones who have gone on ahead to the Lord and are not with us this Christmas; the hungry, poor, and sick; those in any need or trouble. Lord, hear our prayer!