

3. Christmas is EMPOWERING (Luke 1:35–38)

SONGS OF **CHRISTMAS**

Gabriel's Song

Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Tim Keller notes that one of the great challenges of Christmas worship is that we go back to familiar words and familiar themes. Our hearts need to be addressed rather than lulled to sleep. Gabriel's Song definitely didn't lull Mary to sleep and this morning we will see its challenge for us today.

1. Christmas is TROUBLING (Luke 1:26–29)

2. Christmas is PERPLEXING (Luke 1:30–34)

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Gabriel's Song

Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Growth Groups are the glue that hold our church together. Growth Groups are groups of 6 - 12+ people that meet together during the week to process and apply the message, pray together, care for another and live life together. If you are interested in joining a Growth Group, go to gracecentralcoast.org.

Connecting and Caring for One Another

Connect with one another and make sure that each person in your group has a family, whether natural or spiritual, to celebrate Christmas with this year.

Digging into God's Word & the Message Together

1. Share your own experiences/attempts to overcome the familiarity of Christmas so that Christmas transforms you.
2. Explain the two reasons why Mary was so troubled by Gabriel's greeting. Discuss how you resonate with Mary in those ways.

3. Explain how Christmas is category-shattering for Mary and for the world. What are the categories/belief systems of your neighbors, family-members, co-workers, etc.? If you don't know, pray for opportunities to ask honoring questions and for a patient and learning heart. Pray also that God might use you and the message of Christmas to engage their hearts.
4. Explain how Mary has gone from being utterly distressed to utterly perplexed to utterly onboard? What might God be asking of you this Christmas and how does Christmas empower you to do it?

Praying Together

As you pray with one another today . . .

- Recall the challenge of the familiarity of the transformative truths of Christmas
- Remember how much Jesus set aside to make Christmas possible
- Consider who God intends to love, transform, and save through you this Christmas