



# WAITING FOR THE KING

advent 2025



‘You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.’

- Luke 1:31-33 -



# WAITING FOR THE KING

I grew up in Zambia, a land where waiting is part of life. In southern Africa they have a concept called 'Africa Time' which isn't measured in minutes or seconds. Instead it's a 'vibe' or an understanding that something may not get done in a measurable length of time, but it will get done. If something is getting done 'now now' or 'just now' it means that it'll get done, but the waiter needs to be patient and trust the person they were waiting on.

This, to a much higher degree, is sort of what happens at Advent. For 2000 years, Jesus' followers have been waiting for his return. Our Lord has promised that he will return 'soon', but what does this mean? For some it might seem like this promise hasn't been kept, but we only need to read the parables of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-3), the talents (Matthew 24:14-30), and the wicked servant (Luke 12:35-40) to see that this is a bad way to approach God's Word.

We can learn a lot from 'Africa Time'. We need to wait with equal measures of preparedness, anticipation, and peace that Jesus called for as he prophesied his return. We know our King is faithful; he proved this by rising from the dead, and so we can live calmly and joyfully knowing the return of the King is getting closer with every passing day.

In 'Waiting for the King' we'll look at how God's people waited for Jesus' first advent (arrival) at Bethlehem and think about this means for us. We'll look at the events leading up to Jesus' birth, his arrival, and what this waiting brought to the lives of those who got to welcome him. As we look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth at Christmas, we'll also think about what this means for us as we long for his return.

Maranatha - Come Lord Jesus!

In Christ,

*Rev'd David Browne*

*Gladstone Anglican Church*



WEEK 1

## FAMILY OF JESUS

### Warming up:

How much do you know about your family history? Have you ever done some research into your family tree?

### Read: Matthew 1:1-17

1. What is this passage all about?
2. Do you recognise any of the names in this passage?
3. What does v.1 tell us about Jesus?
4. What do vv.2-6 tell us about the connection between Abraham and King David?
5. Divide up the following passages about those mentioned in vv.2-6. Then share your findings. (Abraham - Genesis 15:1-6, Isaac - Genesis 21:1-7, Jacob - Genesis 28:10-22, Judah - Genesis 29:31-35, Tamar + Perez - Genesis 38, Rahab - Joshua 2, Ruth + Boaz - Ruth 4)
6. What do vv.6-11 reveal about the link between David and Jeconiah?
7. Divide up the following passages about people mentioned in vv.6-11. Then share your findings. (Bathsheba - 2 Samuel 11, Solomon - 1 Kings 3:1-15, Rehoboam - 1 Kings 14:21-31, Hezekiah - 2 Kings 19:14-37, Josiah - 2 Kings 23:1-23, Jeconiah (aka Jehoiachin) - 2 Kings 24:8-17)
8. What do vv.12-16 tell us about the link between Jeconiah and Mary?
9. Divide up the following passages about people mentioned in vv.12-16. Then share your findings. (Zerubbabel - Ezra 3, Joseph - Matthew 1:18-25, Mary - Luke 1:26-38)
10. In your own words, list three main things Matthew 1:1-17 can teach us about waiting for Jesus.

### Rubber hits the road:

The people of Israel waited in hope for thousands of years for the Messiah to come and fulfil God's promises to Abraham. How can you share the hope you have in Jesus leading into Christmas?





WEEK 2

## PROMISE OF JESUS

### Warming up:

What types of things would you need to know about someone before you trusted them to keep a promise?

### Read: Luke 1:26-38

1. How would you summarise the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth in the previous verses (Luke 1:5-25)?
2. In what ways is the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary both similar and different to when he visited Zechariah?
3. What do we learn about Mary in vv.26-27? Why are these things significant?
4. How does the angel Gabriel describe Jesus in vv.31-33? What do these descriptions tell us about Jesus' identity and mission?
5. Are these descriptions consistent with what the promised Messiah would be like in the Old Testament? (see 2 Sam 7:11-16, Ps 2:7, 72:1-7, 132:11-12, Is 9:6-7, 11:1-10, Jer 23:5-6, Dan 7:13-14, Mic 5:2).
6. Why does Mary ask the question in v.34? How is this different to Zechariah's question in v.18?
7. What does Gabriel's explanation of the Holy Spirit teach us about Jesus' divine nature?
8. How would have Elizabeth's pregnancy both comforted and encouraged Mary in the midst of confusion? What is the significance of v.37 in both Elizabeth and Mary's situations?
9. What reasons does Mary have to enable her to respond as she does in v.38? What does this show us about her faith and character?

### Rubber hits the road:

As you look towards the end of this year and the start of next year, and think of situations that could be unexpected, costly, or beyond your understanding, will you respond as Mary did? Take some time with God where you pray, "I am your servant. May your word to me be fulfilled."





WEEK 3

## SONG OF JESUS (MARY'S SONG)

### Warming up:

Think about a time when you received unexpected good news. How did you respond quietly, or with joy that you couldn't contain?

### Read: Luke 1:39-56

1. What stands out to you in Mary's song and why?
2. In vv.46–49, Mary rejoices in what God has done for her personally. How does gratitude shape the way we wait on God in our own lives?
3. In vv.50–53, Mary shifts from personal experience to what God does for others. What does this reveal about the kind of King Jesus will be?
4. Mary's song echoes the song of Hannah (1 Samuel 2). What does this tell us about Mary's knowledge of Scripture and her faith? How might immersing ourselves in Scripture help us respond faithfully in uncertain times?
5. Mary sings this song before Jesus is born, before any of the promises are fulfilled. What does her confidence in God's promises teach us about faith and waiting?
6. Vv.54–55 points to God's covenant faithfulness and mercy. How does this remind us God's plans are bigger than just one person's story?
7. Both Mary and Elizabeth recognise God at work in unexpected ways, through ordinary women in a small town. How might God be at work in the ordinary moments of your life this Advent?
8. If you were to write your own 'song of praise' to God right now, what themes or words would it include?

### Rubber hits the road:

Advent is a season of waiting and worship. Mary's song teaches us that even in the waiting, we can praise God for what God will do because God's promises are sure. What's one way you can cultivate a faith that sings even before the fulfilment comes? How can you express that practically through gratitude, generosity, or serving someone in need?





WEEK 4

## VOICE OF JESUS

### Warming up:

If someone asked you, 'what's so amazing about Jesus?', what would you say to them and why would you focus on those things?

### Read: Luke 1:57-80

1. When Elizabeth had her baby boy, what did those people around her hear and how did they respond? Why was this?
2. What is significant about the naming of John? (see Luke 1:13)
3. What does Zechariah's restored speech reveal to us about what God was teaching him, and about his timing and purposes?
4. How does the community respond to all of this?
5. In v.67 it tells us that Zechariah was 'filled with the Holy Spirit'. How is this experience of being in God's presence different to when the angel Gabriel came to Zechariah the first time in Luke 1:8-20?
6. List all the things that Zechariah gives praise to God for in vv.68-75.
7. Are these descriptions consistent with what the promised Messiah would be like in the Old Testament? (see Gen 22:15-18, 2 Sam 7:11-16, Ps 18:2, 106:10, 111:2-10, 132:17-18, Mic 7:18-20).
8. How is John described in vv.76-79 and what would be his role?
9. Are these descriptions consistent with the Old Testament descriptions of what the promised forerunner who comes before the Messiah would do? (see Is 9:1-2, 40:3-5, Mal 3:1, 4:4-6).
10. How have we seen God's kindness and mercy in this passage?
11. What are we told about John in v.80? Why is this important?

### Rubber hits the road:

Zechariah moves from doubt to confidence, from silence to praise, from temple worship to being filled with the Holy Spirit. How can we live as transformed people who point others to Jesus this Christmas?





‘And you, my child, will be  
called a prophet of the Most  
High;

for you will go on before  
the Lord to prepare the way  
for him,

to give his people the  
knowledge of salvation  
through the forgiveness of  
their sins’

- Luke 1:76-77 -



# Sunnybank Anglican Church



## GLADSTONE ANGLICAN CHURCH

