

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE

Sermon Date: 06/12/2020

Text(s): Luke 1:5–25

Sermon Title: Prepare

Preacher: Rev Collin See

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

Luke 1:5–25 (ESV)

5 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

6 And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.

7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

8 Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty,

9 according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.

11 And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

12 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,

15 for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.

16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God,

17 and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

18 And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.”

19 And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.

20 And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.”

21 And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple.

22 And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute.

23 And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

24 After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying,

25 “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

- 1. Zechariah and Elizabeth rejoiced when Elizabeth became pregnant during her advanced years. Today, however, couples get worried when they have an “unplanned pregnancy” at a later stage of their lives. Why is this and what differences are there between our time and from over 2000 years ago that make people worry so much?**
- 2. Zechariah doubted Gabriel, the angel of God, about him and Elizabeth having a son. But Mary did not doubt Gabriel even though she, too, had questions about the possibility of her becoming pregnant with the Son of God. What differentiates Mary from Zechariah? What lessons can we learn here?**
- 3. From the sermon we learned that Elizabeth’s pregnancy gave Mary assurance that God was with her. Mary’s visit to Elizabeth gave further assurance to Mary when the baby in Elizabeth’s womb leaped at her presence because Mary was already carrying baby Jesus in her womb (vv41–42). In the last question we discussed how it is okay to ask questions. Is it also okay to have a need for assurance? Is the need for assurance automatically a sign of unbelief?**

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect and apply God’s word to our daily lives)

- 1. The preacher said, “The gifts we’ve receive are gifts to be given.” Elizabeth received John as a gift from God to be given to others. Mary received Jesus as a gift from God to be given to others. Why is there a need to give away the gift we receive from God? What are some ways we can give during this season of Christmas?**
- 2. John grew up and started preaching and baptizing in the wilderness. If people truly wanted to repent of their sins, they had to make an inconvenient trip into the wilderness to look for John. After months of participating in online worship services from home, are we finding going to church for onsite worship service an inconvenient thing? Is there any unspoken fear about going to church?**

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for weekly guide)

- Pray for one another to be prepared to receive God's gift of love coming to us in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and to be prepared to give this gift of love away to others.
- Pray for our church to be a community that cares about those around us who do not yet know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.
- Pray for the MCS to continue to be strong and stable, able to meet needs in Singapore, and stand out as a true witness of Christ Jesus.