

Title: **Hope from the Beginning**
Text: **Luke 1:67-79**
Date: **December 11, 2022**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at mercyhillchurch.org.



Big Idea

The Christian's hope begins all the way back in the opening pages of Genesis. Christmas and the coming of Jesus isn't the beginning of our hope. In many ways it's the culmination and climax of it!



Reflection Questions

- What is your source of hope? How is that different from your source of assurance? Which did the Jews of Zachariah's day (Luke Chapter 1) have: hope or assurance?
- How does being part of an eternal covenant impact your faith? Does it matter? Does it help?
- In Luke Chapter 1 we meet Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist. How does his prayer of dedication for his child change our worldview?
- At the time of Zachariah's prayer, Jesus had not yet been born, yet he speaks of being both visited and redeemed. As you celebrate Christmas what can you do to feel both "visited and redeemed?"
- Have you ever contemplated the deep Old Testament roots that lie beneath our hope? How does such a thing minister to you? Which of the texts referenced during the sermon seemed most significant to you and why?
- We live in between the time of Christ's two advents. The Old Testament saints struggled to hold onto hope as they waited for his first coming. We now still struggle to hold onto hope as we wait for his second. Where is hope breaking down in your life right now would you say? Where are you tempted towards despair? How does Jesus' first coming at Christmas freshly encourage you to hold onto hope today?

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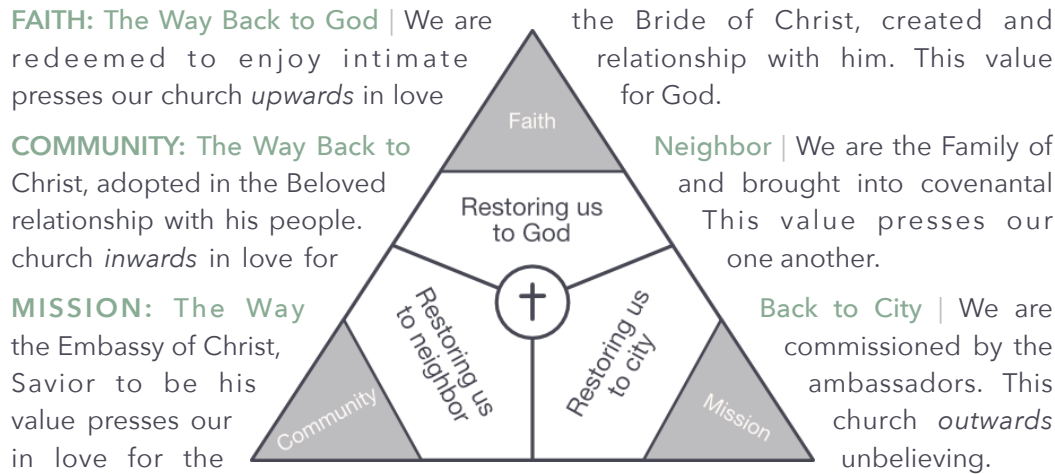


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Give online at mercyhillchurch.org/give or text any amount to 84321 and follow the prompts.

Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

Holiday Gift Baskets for Allen School Families!

We have the wonderful opportunity to partner with Allen at Steinbeck Elementary in providing Holiday Gift Baskets for some of their most needy families. Let's be a blessing to these families! Items can be purchased and brought to the service on Sunday (12/18). The final deadline for donations will be Monday (12/19).

Please scan the QR code below to find a link to sign-up!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

Christmas @ Mercy Hill!

Christmas falls on a Sunday this year. You may be wondering what we are planning. Well, in one sense, we'll keep things rolling as usual. The service will be at 10:00am that morning like normal. But . . . of course we're going to do it up special for Christmas! It will be a shorter family service (no Mercy Hill Kids ministry) so all our kids can participate (if you're worried, we'll be handing out an activity pack on the way in that your littles can engage with during the service to keep them occupied if needed). We'll sing carols, spend some time reflecting on the wonder of Christmas, and enjoy sweet treats together! Please mark your calendars and invite your family and friends!

If you're interested in bringing some Christmas cookies or other treats to share, scan the QR code below to find a link to sign up!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

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scan this code to head to our Communications Hub!

Or find it online at mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub.