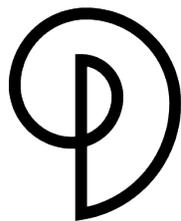
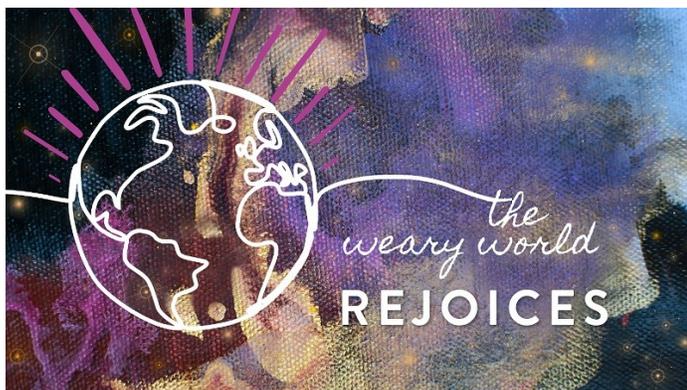


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



We Sing Hope

December 9 & 10, 2023

As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, we are invited to sing stories of hope, justice, and joy.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: LUKE 1:46-55, 67-80

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

As soon as Zechariah's voice returns, his first words are gratitude and blessing. Zechariah sings a song of praise for God's protection and promise as he showers a blessing on his newborn son, John, who will make way for the Savior Jesus. He sings a story of hope. After that, Mary sings a song of joy: "My soul magnifies God; my spirit rejoices in God." Mary sings about a God of liberation who pulls the powerful from their thrones and lifts up the lowly. Mary sings a story of hope, one in which justice and joy are interwoven.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share a story about a time **when you didn't have a song to sing, or a hope to hold on to, and the community of Christ around you sang and hoped for you.**
- Share about a time that you used your voice to express gratitude or shower blessing.
- If you were to sing a song filled with remembering and embracing God's faithfulness to you, what events/moments would you be sure to include?
- Share about one or more of the following: a time when you faced a challenge that you didn't feel equipped to face; a time when you felt alone, hurt, or deeply troubled about something that you just couldn't seem to get free from; the grief you are experiencing as you deal with the loss of a loved one. Then remember: **We sing hope about a God who comes to free us from the power of those challenges.**
- **Zechariah's song also looks ahead, filled with hopeful anticipation and Mary sings a song of joy.** What is something you are looking forward to with hopeful anticipation? What is currently filling you with joy?

CHALLENGE: Use this truth as a mantra during reflective prayer time this week: **We sing hope because we know that God has been faithful, is faithful now, and will always be faithful. We sing hope.**