**“Proclaiming”**

***Luke 1:23–60***

**Dr. Sheryl Reimer-Kirkham**

**Coast Hills Community Church**

**December 13, 2015**

**PROCLAIMING JOY: Journeying to Bethlehem with Elizabeth**

1. **About Advent: Waiting Then-Now-Not Yet**
	1. Remembering the waiting for Jesus’ birth (the journey to Bethlehem)
	2. Waiting for Jesus among us (the presence of Christ with us)
	3. Waiting for Jesus’ return (our future hope)
2. **Understanding the Text**
	1. Parallels and Continuities
		1. Promise and Fulfilment
		2. Blessing and Joy
	2. Women’s Narratives
	3. Proclamations
3. **Elizabeth’s Prophetic Utterances**
	1. Confirming (Luke 1:23-25)
		1. Naming the pain: *They had no children*
		2. Confirming God’s hand: *The Lord has done this for me*
	2. Blessing (Luke 1:39-45)
		1. Mary hurries to see Elizabeth: *And Mary went with haste*
		2. Elizabeth blesses Mary: *Blessed are you among women*
		3. Elizabeth recognizes Jesus: *The mother of my Lord*
		4. Elizabeth extends hospitality: *Mary stayed with Elizabeth*
	3. Proclaiming (Luke 1:57-60)
		1. A community rejoices at John’s birth: *Everyone rejoiced with her*
		2. John’s naming: *His name is John!*
4. **Application**
	1. Like Elizabeth, we acknowledge life’s pain or disappointment and look for God’s hand at work
	2. Like Elizabeth and unborn John, we experience joy as we recognize Jesus and draw near to him
	3. Like Elizabeth and Mary, we speak into each other’s lives
	4. Like Elizabeth naming John as “grace of God”, we speak with confidence “*the Lord is gracious”*
	5. Like Elizabeth and Mary, we recognize the God of all ages as Jesus Incarnate-Jesus Messiah