

Hope Presbyterian Church  
Sermon-Based Bible Study

December 14, 2025

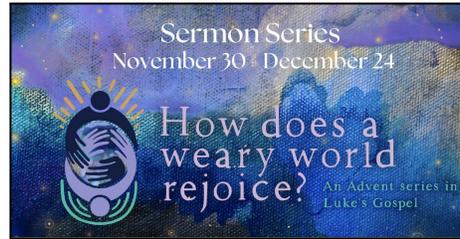
**“We Allow Ourselves to be Amazed”**

#3 in the series

*How Does a Weary World Rejoice?*

**Scripture Text (CEB)**

Luke 1:57-66



1. Consider what it means to be *amazed* - *to be greatly surprised or astonished*. Now, recall a time when something happened that amazed you or when someone said something to you that was truly surprising or astonishing.
  - How did you respond to this situation or the astonishing thing that was said?
  - What can inhibit our capacity to be amazed?
  - Is amazement a precursor for joy and praise?
2. **Read Luke 1:57-59.**

When Elizabeth gave birth, neighbors and relatives joined with her and Zechariah in celebration.

  - What cultural expectations did they have when it came to the naming ceremony for Elizabeth's child?
  - What are some cultural or family traditions that you have long followed and upheld?
3. **Read Luke 1:60-63.**

Elizabeth breaks with the naming tradition for her child, to the amazement of those gathered with her and Zechariah.

  - How was the reaction to Elizabeth's decision about her son's name what you'd expect?
  - Why would they have found Zechariah's response even more amazing than Elizabeth's?
  - Why is breaking with a tradition often uncomfortable, even fearful?
4. **Read Luke 1:64-66.**

Zechariah's months-long silence was broken the moment he declared that his son's name would be John.

  - How was this moment one of surprise, disrupted expectations, amazement, and wonder?
  - Consider the following ways we can foster a sense of wonder:
    - Hold our expectations loosely
    - Pay attention to the quiet work of God
    - Practice receptivity - be open to God's direction
    - Allow yourself to ponder instead of control
5. **Interpretations of Amazement and Wonder**
  - *What Wonder Turns Into* by Lisle Gwynne Garrity
  - *All the Way to Joy* by Rev. Sarah Speed
6. How can we pray for you?