



**Haven Community Church
Pastor Jack D. Cohen – December 20, 2009**

“⁴⁶And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.” ⁵⁶Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.”
– Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

Christmas is...Family Matters

I. Sing, sing a song...

- Great lyrics
- Catchy tune
- Memory attachment

II. Four songs of Christmas

1) The Magnificat → Mary’s Song

“⁴⁶And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him.”
– Luke 1:46-50 (NIV)

- God’s personal mercy
 - Personal transformation
 - Mary was God’s first choice; Mary was God’s only choice
- God’s universal mercy
 - Moral transformation
 - Social transformation
 - Economic transformation

“There’s a loveliness in the Magnificat but in that loveliness there’s dynamite.” – William Barclay

2) Benedictus → Zechariah’s Song

“⁶⁸“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people... ⁷⁷to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God...”
– Luke 1:68-78 (NIV)

- Saving purpose
- Kept promise
- Transformational purpose
- Blessing purpose
 - Light
 - Rescuer
 - Guidance

• Gloria in Excelsis → Angels’ Song

“¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.””
– Luke 2:14 (NIV)

- Peace & Kindness promise
 - Heart transformation

• Nunc Dimittis → Simeon’s Song

“²⁹“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss[d] your servant in peace. ³⁰ my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all people, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.””
– Luke 2:29-32 (NIV)

- The Who question
 - the answer
 - the Savior
 - the Fork in the Road