

## **Third Week of Advent: “Birth Pangs - The Second Trimester”**

**Luke 1:39-45**

**December 12, 2021**

### **WARM-UP QUESTIONS:**

1. What is one past experience that you had to wait a long time before you could see the answer or outcome? How did it feel during that time?
2. If your family celebrated Christmas, what was one present that you really hoped for growing up? Did you ever get it? How long did the feelings associated with that experience last?
3. Do you have any long-term hopes (health, work, family, relationships, etc.)? What are some of them?

### **REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

1. Read the Luke 1 passage several times and imagine that you are Elizabeth, Joseph, one of their relatives. What thoughts and feelings do you sense?
2. Pastor January asserted that Elizabeth is a powerful example of what it means to sustain our hopes and how we can do so. Where do we see this?
3. Have you ever had a personal hope die and then be “resurrected”? What was that like? And if not, what was it like to let it go? In either situation, did the process change your perception of the hope itself and what God was doing?

### **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. Advent is a time of remembering and reflecting on God fulfilling long-awaited promises - in the past, present, and future. What are God’s promises that you are holding onto in this season? Or be reminded of again?
2. Take some time to think about what personal and corporate practices the Church has used for sustaining hope. Have yours been helping you through this season?