

## Message Notes

**ARISE is a an intentional call to action for Point of Grace to be transformed as individuals and as a church body, to literally “become light” and “shine” for God’s glory in key areas of personal and church life. Point of Grace embraced Part One of ARISE in the Spring of 2010 by surrendering to God’s transforming work in the area of financial giving. In this phase of ARISE God is calling us to transformation in the areas of Service, Community, Prayer and Worship!!**

*Isaiah 60<sup>1</sup> "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.*

**The Advent and Christmas Season are a fantastic backdrop for God’s transforming work in our lives with regards to our \_\_\_\_\_ attitudes and practices.**

**Luke 1<sup>8</sup>** Once when Zechariah’s division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God,<sup>9</sup> he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.<sup>10</sup> And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

<sup>11</sup> Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.<sup>12</sup> When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.<sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.<sup>14</sup> He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth,<sup>15</sup> for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. ...he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.<sup>16</sup> He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.<sup>17</sup> And he will go on before the Lord, .....—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

<sup>18</sup> Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”<sup>19</sup> The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.<sup>20</sup> And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

**Our starting point for worship is before we start worshipping!  
Our natural heart and mind attitude of \_\_\_\_\_  
and self-absorption must give way to a Spirit generated  
attitude of \_\_\_\_\_ and God focus!**

**Luke 1<sup>46</sup>** And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name.

**Luke 1<sup>57</sup>** When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son.<sup>58</sup> Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.<sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah,<sup>60</sup> but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”<sup>61</sup> They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

<sup>62</sup> Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child.<sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.”<sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God.<sup>65</sup> All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things.<sup>66</sup> Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

<sup>67</sup> His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

<sup>68</sup> “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

**Luke 2<sup>16</sup>** So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.<sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,<sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.<sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told

**Matthew 2<sup>9</sup>** After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.<sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**In worship we live in an amazing paradox!**

**We are humbled in the unapproachable holiness of God and yet \_\_\_\_\_ Him in the magnanimous \_\_\_\_\_ of His heart! We are always in \_\_\_\_!**