

# Your Prayer Has Been Heard

Sermon Series: **Luke: All Things New**



## Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



## Key Text

Luke 1:13

→ “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard...”



## Big Idea

The prayers of man advance the plan of God. God incorporates man's prayer into His plan in this way because He's desired man's partnership from the very beginning.

### (1) A Praying Priest & the Coming Christ

As Zechariah moved into the Holy Place to offer the incense, he would also give himself in a special way to interceding for the nation. This is why the grand announcement from Gabriel begins with a reference to Zechariah's prayer: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard...” (v. 13a). God chooses to connect the arrival of His long-awaited for Messiah with the humble petitions of His people. His Christ is coming on the basis of our prayers! That's significant!

### (2) A Praying Christ & the Coming Church

In answer to Zechariah's prayer for his nation, God sets in motion the course of events that would lead to the Christ's arrival. And, intriguingly, in Jesus' life, what do we find occupies a most central place but...prayer! If ever it was right for prayer to be neglected or unnecessary, surely it would be with the God-man Jesus Christ. But, quite the opposite, prayer was His breath! As fully God “He upholds the universe by the word of His power” (Heb 1:3). As fully man He never stops praying, pouring words from His heart into the ears of His Father (Heb 5:7). And Luke, more than any gospel writer, draws our attention to the prayer life of our Lord and the way it engaged and advanced the plan of God.

### (3) A Praying Church & the Coming End

Jesus, the second Adam, regains the Divine-human partnership and by His Spirit brings us back into it. And as we follow the story from Luke's gospel to the book of Acts—from the life of Christ to the life of His church—It is not surprising, then, that prayer becomes as central to the church as it was to Christ. It was prayer that prepared the way for the Messiah, prayer that fueled the life, death, and resurrection of the Messiah, now it is by means of prayer in the church that God will advance His plan of salvation from Jerusalem, to all Judea, to Samaria, to the ends of the earth...until the end of the world as we know it!



## Critical Action

God is calling us into partnership with Himself in prayer...so pray and watch His plan advance in your life and this church!



## Reflection Questions

- How would you respond if an angel appeared to you and declared: “Do not be afraid, for your prayer has been heard”? Do you believe that this could be said of every prayer? How would it affect you if you did?
- What aspect of the incense symbolism most struck you? Explain.
- What would it look like this week for you to live in partnership with God? How do you think He is looking to advance His plan in and through you?
- Why did Christ pray and what does it mean for the church?
- Which categories did you most relate to: the Deist, Fatalist, Materialist, Executive, Barterer, or Traditionalist? Explain. What would it mean for you to pray like a Christian, like Christ?!