

The First Sunday in Advent

Luke 1:26-55

God was ready to send his Son into the world. God carefully chose young Mary to be mother to his Son. God sent the angel, Gabriel, to deliver this amazing news to Mary while she was alone in her home. The angel said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was surprised, Mary was frightened, and Mary was confused.

The angel told Mary not to be afraid. God loved Mary and had wonderful plans for her to become pregnant and give birth to God's son, Jesus. Jesus would become the ruler of God's kingdom forever.

Although Mary was engaged, she was not yet married to Joseph. Mary asked, "How will this be?" The angel told Mary, "No word from God will ever fail." The angel reminded Mary of her cousin, Elizabeth, who was very old but was now pregnant with a child, too. Anything is possible with God. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."

After the angel left, Mary quickly went to visit Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, her own baby "leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit." Elizabeth and her unborn baby both recognized Mary as the mother of God's holy Son. Elizabeth's faith further encouraged Mary, and Mary sang a beautiful song to honor God. "My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant..."

This is a story about LOVE. God loved Mary and created Mary for the task ahead of her. God planned that Mary would deliver Jesus into the world, hold Jesus as a baby, guide Jesus as a young boy, follow Jesus in his ministry, and then witness Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. God loves us so much that God sent Jesus to live with us, to die on the cross to forgive our sins, and to live in heaven forever. God loves YOU and has special plans for YOU each day and throughout your life.

Explore More

Ephesians 2:10:

For we are God's craftsmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good things.

What does this verse tell you about God's love for you? _____

How will knowing this truth guide you each day? _____
