

## Watching and Waiting      Advent Gospel Study 2020

### Fourth Sunday December 20, 2020

Focus question: *What does it mean to trust God as a faithful disciple?*

Luke's gospel presents Jesus as "the truth", fulfilling the Jewish expectations for a messiah. Start by reading Luke 1: 5-25, the announcement of John the Baptizer's birth. Then look for similarities and differences as you read the gospel lesson about the announcement of Jesus's birth.

#### **The Word: Read Luke 1: 26-38**

Examine Luke 1: 26-33

An extraordinary visit and pronouncement to an 'ordinary' unsuspecting young Jewish maiden who is told that she is "favored by God". Mary will conceive and give birth to no ordinary village child, but to the "Son of the Most High", a term for God in the Hebrew Scriptures.

*Recall a time when you were asked to do something new, something that may have seemed impossible at the time. How did you respond?*

Examine Luke 1: 34-38

Notice that Mary doesn't ask Gabriel to prove his predictions about Jesus (See Zechariah's response vs 18), nor about Elizabeth's pregnancy. She asks a very practical question for a woman in her situation. The word "overshadow" was used in the Old Testament to describe God's presence in the cloud in Sinai, and for bringing life out of nothing over the waters of creation. Through Mary's trust and faith, "how can this be" became "let it be"!

*What are some barriers that can block us from trusting God?*

*How can Advent prepare us to not only 'expect the unexpected' but to 'accept the unexpected' as disciples of Jesus?*

**Prayer:** Come Lord Jesus and be our guest. Grant us bold and trusting faith, that we might be instruments and bearers of your love. Amen

**Last Word:** This week, reflect on and pray Mary's prayer: "Let it be done to me according to your word."