

Reflection Advent 4 Luke 1:26-3

If we could meet Mary in her time and place, what would we see? Well, probably a young woman of that time and place. She would not be some detached shining figure, suitably haloed for our adoration. Mary, like the rest of us, was a human being. So am I stating the obvious, when I say human beings are the material God has to work with? Surely that should give us hope and joy because it means that **WE** are the material by which God forms the world. Throughout Scripture we read of the ordinary humans beings, that God inspired and used to draw people to Himself. The question remains, why were they chosen? Let us give thanks to God and let us like Mary say YES to God here I am send me .

Fr Terry



NEXT SUNDAY 31.12.2023 Holy Family
10.30am in the Hall

READINGS: OT Isaiah 61: 10-62: 3
NT Galatians 4: 4-7
GOSPEL Luke 2: 15-21



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St Thomas, Exeter

24th December 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.30am in Hall

Today

10.30am in the Hall

Hymn Numbers

358 O come, O come, Emmanuel vs 1 & 2

136 For Mary, mother of our Lord

358 O come, O come, Emmanuel vs 3, 4 & 5

4pm Crib Service and Carols in the Hall

11.30pm Midnight Mass in Church. Please dress warmly.

Wednesday 27th December
No Holy Communion

Thursday 28th December

No St Thomas Tots until 4th Jan 2024

No Knit & Natter until the 11th Jan 2024

3-5pm Warm Space in the Hall



Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

2 Samuel 7: 1-11,16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.' But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and

your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Romans 16: 25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I,

the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Community Larder There will be a collection box in church on Sundays for food donations. The need remains great so please be mindful of our wider community.

Pioneering Parishes:

What: A series of four fortnightly webinars to help parishes start to move their energy outwards and become more pioneering.

When: Tuesday 9th January, Tuesday 23rd January, Tuesday 6 & Tuesday 20th February.

Time: 14.00-15.30.

Please refer to weekly email and/or speak to Fr David or Revd Sarah.

Knit & Natter will meet again after Christmas on Thursday 11th January 2024. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725

Warm Space will continue throughout the Christmas period.

