

**CHRISTMAS ISN'T CANCELED – WE'RE JUST WAITING!**  
**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL**

3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent – Waiting in Messy Joy

December 16, 2020

Text: Luke 1:39-45

Meditation:

Waiting in Messy Joy is just that, finding joy in what seems a mess. Each of the stories and lives in Luke 1 have great joy but some sort of mess in them. We can be waiting in joy while things are messy now as well.

“In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country” to visit her older cousin, Elizabeth. Did you ever wonder why she went in haste? This is the next line after Gabriel the angel had left her, telling her that she would soon bear the Son of God. Can you imagine the confusion, the anxiety, even the terror this poor young peasant girl was experiencing? When did the Holy Spirit come upon her, to make this virgin pregnant? Was it right after Gabriel left? What must have that been like? Did she tell her mother? Did she tell anyone? Did she leave immediately? Why go to Elizabeth, the older spinster cousin? Such craziness! Such a mess! Whatever is she going to do? And what is she going to do about dear sweet Joseph? Then she arrives, only to be further amazed that her barren relative, who was way beyond childbearing years, is also pregnant. A barren woman and a virgin, both pregnant with child! What joy! What craziness is this! And the elder woman’s baby, destined to be a prophet, jumps at the presence of the Messiah in Mary’s belly, and fills his mother with the Holy Spirit, so that she too can prophesy to Mary! Can you see these two women, laughing and crying together? Hugging and dancing around in incredulous exultation? What a joy! What a mess!

What about you? Is your life a mess right now? Or is it just swirling around you in COVID-19, urban violence, political hysteria and disagreement. Do you know in your heart and soul that it will all be brought to final Joy in Jesus when He returns?

Question #1. What messes are you most concerned about right now? What does the promise of Joy in the return of Jesus tell you about handling those circumstances now?

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Question #2. What can you do to happily help others in the middle of messy circumstances in their own lives? How can you do this in a way that communicates the peace and joy of the Lord?

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Prayer: Father God, let us not deny the very real problems and messes we all face. Help us all to encounter and tackle them with resolve, with inspiration, with the power of your Holy Spirit, and in the Joy of our Lord, Jesus. Amen!