

CHRISTMAS ISN'T CANCELED - WE'RE JUST WAITING!

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

3rd Week of Advent – Waiting in Messy Joy

December 15, 2020

Text: Luke 1:26-38

Meditation:

This week we will begin with the first of several “messy joy” stories in Luke 1. Read through Luke 1:26-38. Mary is about to have a day she will never forget.

God sends a message with the angel, Gabriel to Mary, a young woman living in a small village. A woman probably excited about her betrothal to Joseph. Gabriel says, “Greetings, O favored One, the Lord is with you!” but she is troubled.

What she is about to hear, a miracle, is not something she would ever expect. She learns she will conceive and be pregnant with a son, learns what his name will be- Jesus and his legacy, a kingdom that will have no end. Her first question is “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” Gabriel tells her Jesus will be the Son of God conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, as will her cousin Elizabeth, thought to be barren will also bear a child. Nothing will be impossible with God. Mary, a faithful servant responds ...”let it be according to your word”.

Messy news, but amazing joy! Earthly life is like that messy at times as we particularly have experienced in a pandemic like never before. But with God nothing is impossible. His blessings, miracles, are happening every day all around us. Be open to experiencing them.

Where have you experienced joy in the messy times? Share with a family member or friend and give thanks, celebrate! The more we celebrate these happenings, the more aware we are of their presence.

What other scriptures can you think of that show miracles that come from unusual messy situations? Read them and remember when times seem troubling.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, You are Holy God, all powerful and nothing is impossible for You Lord. Forgive us when we look at troubling times only through human eyes, forgetting your promises and presence. Strengthen our belief and trust in you. As Mary answered with the news of Jesus’ birth - “Let it be according to your word, Lord.” In Jesus name. Amen.

Question #1

Question #2

Prayer: