

Chris Murphy

December 8th 2024

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-38

Sermon Title: Mary's Surprise

Scripture Reading:

Luke 1:26-38

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." [a] 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 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. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and

of his kingdom there will be no end.” 34 Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”[b] 35 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[c] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 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. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 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.

This is the Word of God.

Thanks Be To God.

Please Pray with Me...

Sermon Outline:

Mary's Surprise

1. Introduction:

A. My Experience with Mary at Mount Angel Monastery

B. Father Aelred.

C. Mary as Mother of God- (Angel Gabriel's message that Mary will be the Mother of Jesus the Messiah. Mary is Mother of God because Jesus is fully divine and fully human.

D. Mary is also the Mother of All Disciples of Jesus.

John 19: 25-27

“Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, here is your son.’ Then he said to his disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.”

E. I spent time praying to Mary as I visited a statue of her at Mount Angel. It was comforting for me. Reminded me of my own experience of ministry when I felt called to pursue my passion for spiritual formation. Immaculate Heart of Mary- Message to me was follow your heart.

2. Mary invites all of us to follow our hearts and be open to what God is birthing in us as followers of Jesus. At our recent prayer retreat, we looked at the passage of Mary being visited by the

Angel Gabriel. Mindi Hynes, on our resident Catholics at our church reflected on Friday about her own experience of Mary. I have asked Mindi to share with us this morning for a few minutes and then I will come back to share a little more.

3. Thank you, Mindi. A final thought to share with you is that Mary's encounter with Gabriel was clearly a big surprise.
 - A. She was surprised to be chose to be the Mother of Jesus. How might God wish to surprise you in this season of your life? I know some of us may be experiencing worry about the state of the world. Mary lived in a very perilous time. She was a poor Jewish teenager with brown skin. She felt oppressed by the Roman Empire that invaded her land. She was facing the challenge of giving birth to Jesus and questions remained about how this could happen and how Joseph and others might view her pregnancy. And yet, Mary said yes. How might we say yes to Jesus and all that God might wish to show us this Christmas season. How might God be birthing in us and in this church a new vision that could make a difference in our world? How might we be surprised by the angels and God's message of love for ourselves and for the world?
 - B. Friends, may this Advent and Christmas Season surprise us with joy born out of the grace and love that extended to a young teenager named Mary and that extends to us as well.

Please pray with me...