

Day 1.

“ the angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary “. Luke . I verse 28.

Amidst the ordinary details of her daily life, Mary received a message from God.

She was open and attentive, recognising the moment in which God spoke to her.

Mary not only noticed, but she stopped and listened and trusted Him.

Although what He said was puzzling, astounding, she took Him at His word.

Elizabeth declared of her “ blessed is she who believed” Luke 1 verse 45.

Today, are we attentive to God ?, are we listening ?. Do we believe that He will speak to us ?.

Do we want Him to speak to us ?.

Reflection.

“ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” John 10 verse v 27.

Prayer. Lord, help me to follow the example your Mother ,make me sensitive to Your voice and help me to trust In You .Amen.

Day 2.

Luke 1 verse 38. “ behold Thy servant Lord, be it unto me as You have said “.

The astounding invitation is given. Mary said “YES.”

“Behold Thy servant.....” she dedicated her future, her body, her very self to God. This was dangerous . To be unmarried and pregnant meant she risked being stoned to death. But she did not hesitate.

“ be it unto me according to Thy word.” She accepted His will for her life. We stand and look at a profound moment in human history. At a awesome moment of faith. Mary said Yes to God unreservedly. Faith comes not when every question is answered, or every hardship removed, but when we put our trust in God.

How do we respond to His invitation to us. Do we welcome Jesus into the heart of our being ?.

Reflection.

“ I live, but not I, Christ lives in me. “. Gal. 2 verse 20.

Prayer. Lord help me to open my mind, my heart, and my life to Your indwelling Presence and Your action within me.

Day 3.

“ and Mary arose in those days, and went with haste to the hill country “.

Mary went at once to Elizabeth, her first act was one of evangelism.

The Christ was within her, and she responded by sharing Him with others.

She shows us the mission of the church. She sets us an example of our own calling.

To share what we have received with others.

St Francis reminds us that this is not only a call to speak, but to a way of life.“preach the gospel at all times, and, if necessary, use words “.

Reflection.

Luke 1 verse 15 “ go into the world and preach the gospel “.

Prayer. Lord, give me a heart like that of Mary. Make me eager to share Your good news with others.

Day 4. John 2 verse 1-10. The wedding at Canaan.

Notice the actions of Mary.

She is close to Jesus and she notices the problem with the wine which she brings to Him.“ They

have no wine “, Verse 3. She then brings those in need to Jesus Himself. She is the channel

through which others are able to encounter Him and ask His help. She encourages them to trust

Him “ do whatever He tells you “ verse 5. Having brought them to Jesus she steps back. The

encounter is now between Jesus and the servants. Here, Mary gives us a wonderful example of Christian evangelism. She knows Him, and makes Him known. She spends herself in His service.

Reflection.

Isaiah 6 verse 8 “ I heard the Lord saying “ Whom shall I send “ and I answered Him ,

“ HERE AM I.. SEND ME “.

Prayer.

Hail Mary, full of Grace. Help me to be sensitive to my opportunities to be a channel of Christ's presence to others.

Day 5.

“blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.” Luke 11 verse 28.

Luke shows Mary as deeply contemplative. She not only listened to the word of God, she kept it in her heart. After the shepherds came to the stable we are told that “Mary kept all these words, and, pondered them in her heart”.

When they found Jesus in the temple at Jerusalem, again we read “His mother, kept all these things in her heart,” Luke 2 verse 51. This is more than remembering. This is deeply considering. Mary holds close to her heart the things of God and of her Son. She treasured them. She pondered deeply upon them.

What place does the Word of God have in your life.

Reflection.

Ps 119 verse 105. “Your word is lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Prayer. Lord, open your Word to me, let me hear and understand. May Your word bear fruit in my life.

Day 6.

“you were bought at a price, and what has cost God so much, cannot be cheap to us”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Mary's yes was very costly for her. She gave up her life, her very self, to accept God's will for her. It was made clear to her that she would suffer for her Son's sake. At the temple Simeon made a clear prediction. “and a sword shall pierce your own soul” Luke 2 verse 35. She never flinched from the cost of following the path God had for her. For Mary, bearing the cost was a daily reality. We cannot imagine what it cost Mary to stand at the cross as her Son died before her. There is a cost to being a follower of Christ.

Are we ready to suffer for His sake.?

Reflect on Luke 9 verse 23.

Jesus said “take up your crossdaily.....and follow Me”.

Prayer. Lord, Your plans for me are for my good. Give me Grace to follow and accept the cost of discipleship.

Day 7.

“My soul magnifies the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.” Luke 1 verse 46.

To magnify is to increase something. We cannot make God bigger but we can increase His importance in our lives. We can make Him the centre of who we are and what we do. Mary's whole being was focused on God. And so, she rejoiced. She knew the joy of His presence, the blessing of His plan for her, the magnitude of His generosity.

She proclaims that God, “has filled the hungry with good things”. Are we hungry for God?, Do we magnify the Lord with our whole being?, do we rejoice in our relationship with Jesus?.

Reflection

John 15 verse 11. Jesus said..

“I have told you these things so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete”.

Prayer. Lord, St Paul told us to rejoice in You always. Rekindle Your joy in my heart.

Day 8.

Luke 2 verse 7 “and she brought forth her firstborn Son.”

God has entered His creation through Mary. She is the channel through which He is made known. We share her vocation. She brought Him forth physically, we are called to bring Him forth spiritually. Out of His great love He makes His home in us. This is evangelism.

“it's the love we were made for, the reason for our being. It fills our inmost heart space and brings to birth in us, the Holy One.” Joy Crowley, modern Magnificat.

This is our calling. Jesus entrusts Himself to us.

Reflection.

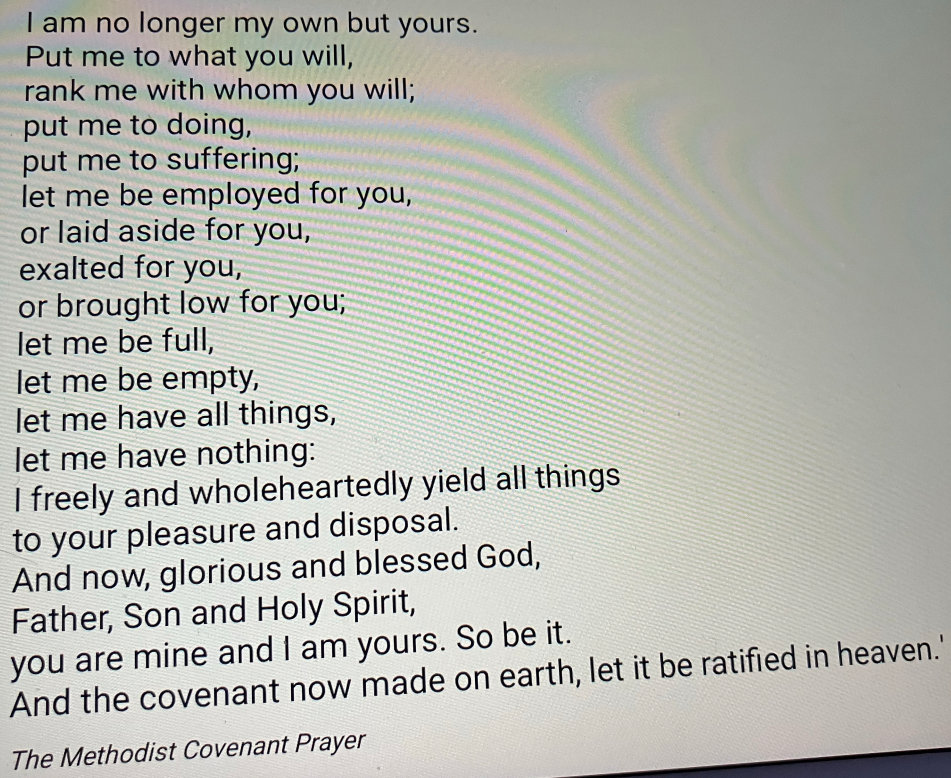
“I in them and You in Me, then the world will know that You have sent Me. John 17 verse 23.

Prayer. Lord, You choose me to know You, and to make You known, to bear lasting fruit.

You have appointed me to my task. By Your grace, May I be a channel of Your presence to all.

Day 9.

A prayer of commitment.



I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing,
put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you,
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you,
or brought low for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.'

The Methodist Covenant Prayer

Caption

*Not merely in the words you say,
Not only in your deeds confessed,
But in the most unconscious way
Is Christ expressed.
Is it a beatific smile?
A holy light upon your brow?
Oh no! I felt his presence
When you laughed just now.
To me, 'twas not the truth you taught,
To you so clear; to me still dim,
But when you came you brought
A sense of him.
And from your eyes he beckons me
And from your heart his love is shed,
Till I lose sight of you and see
The Christ instead.*

Caption