

“ Will you truly celebrate in His name ? ”

“A virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel – which means, God with us.” (Matthew 1:23)(Isaiah 7:14)

“In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph. A descendent of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, ‘Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.’ The angel said, ‘Do not be afraid! You will give birth to a child and he will be called Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!’” (Luke 1:26-33)

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary said. “May it be to me as you have said.” (Luke 1: 38)

“and Elizabeth said, ‘Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!’” (Luke 1: 45)

“and Mary said: ‘My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. His mercy extends to those who fear him from generation to generation.’” (Luke 1: 46-48a, 50)

As we approach the Advent season and prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christ and his birth, we must ask ourselves; **“Am I truly ready and am I celebrating the Christ?”**

- Are we going through the motions and traditions or is the love for the Christ shining through me?
- Will this year be the same as years past or is this the year I join in the angelic choir as they celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior?
- Will I be like Mary and humble myself before God and celebrate in being a servant to Him?
- Will I share the joyous ‘Good News’ with others or will it be business as usual?
- Will I care for the sick, poor, and lost or will I give “more stuff” to those that do not need more?
- Will I remember that the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, came to save a wretch like me?
- **Will I truly celebrate in His name?**

Pray that God the Father will speak to the hearts of all of us and will help us to find our place in this great celebration and may we hear the words that Mary heard from the angel:

“Do not be afraid, you have found favor with God.”