Advent Reflections: Week Two-*Mary's Story*

Luke 1:26-38

"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 descendant 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.' Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name 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 for ever; his kingdom will never end.' 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?' The angel answered 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.' 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May it be to me as you have said.' Then the angel left her."

- ***Ask God to be with you as you ponder, reflect, pray, meditate***
- ***Imagine being a very young teenager, 13 years old or so, a female with few rights or recognition. How might it be to 'receive' such a 'vision', and wonder who might believe you?***
- ***How might you 'recognize' an Angel, a Holy Presence? How might you feel? React? Act?***
- ***Have you ever felt/experienced the 'Holy Spirit come upon you'? Do you want to? What are your thoughts and feelings about that?***
- ***Consider the idea that you are 'pregnant' with the Holy Spirit. What might it mean for you to give Him time to grow within you, and to flourish in your daily world and life?***
- ***Ponder the statement 'I am the Lord's servant' in your heart of hearts...and talk to God about your desires, and your fears.***

Advent Reflections Thoughts and Notes:

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