

A Message from Mary-Beth

Here am I, the servant of the Lord: let it be according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

These famous words from the Virgin Mary brought the assurance of our salvation. Her obedience and God's amazing love for us brought our Saviour Jesus into the world.

We commemorate the Virgin Mary in our worship on this last Sunday of Advent. Now is the time that we draw closer to the celebration of Jesus' birth, the arrival of God's Word who became flesh, who came into the world as the Son of God to bring us redemption and eternal life.

As Christmas fast approaches, our Advent focus changes. Watching and waiting for Jesus has hastened and there is expectation in our hearts. For many of us, the pace of life also speeds up. There are presents to wrap and last minute shopping to do for the Christmas feast.

But this year could be different, as the government asks us to be mindful of social mixing in the midst of a spreading pandemic. We might ask ourselves how we can reduce time spent in shops and perhaps even reduce the items on our Christmas table. Living in a society of over abundance, this is something we are not accustomed to doing. And yet this could be good for our faith.

Why not take a few extra moments to spend time with Mary, that obedient servant of God, to ponder with her the amazing news she was given from the Angel Gabriel: the coming of the Son of God whose Kingdom would have no end.

We are the recipients of that wonderful promise, as Jesus paid the price for our sins and brings us eternal life.

Here's a prayer that might help, as you spend some time with the obedient Virgin:

Dear God:

Grant me the humility I need to hear your voice and the faith I need to respond to it.

Like Mary, let me be ready to answer when you call:

'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be according to your word.'

Amen.

God bless you richly as you prepare to welcome Christ into your hearts and your homes.

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