

Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in December, 2023

Introduction

Leader The coming of Christ is a message of great consolation and hope to believers. Mary's "Yes" to God's call changed the course of history.

Opening Prayer

All Lord God, fill our hearts with gratitude for your coming into our chaotic world. May Mary's example of trust in God's call remind us of our need to trust God's role in our personal lives, especially as we prepare to celebrate the feast of Christmas. We ask with confidence in the power of Jesus' name through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Word of God Luke 1:26-35a, 38

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke *(The reading is on the reverse side. Pause for silent reflection.)*
Optional Discuss these questions in two's or three's.

1. Share a time when you met God through the presence of another?
2. Mary became a *Christ bearer*. How are you also one who bears Christ to others?

Response (Taken from Luke 1:26-35a, 38)

Side 1 "Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God."

Side 2 May God say the same words to us as we try each day to be faithful disciples.

Side 1 "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord."

Side 2 As God's servants we praise God's goodness to us every day of our lives.

Side 1 "May it be done to me according to your word."

Side 2 Thank you, Mary, for your "Yes" to God's invitation and for your trust in God's mercy.

Petitions Individuals add intentions to remember here.

Closing Prayer

All Lord of all creation, how can we return our gratitude to you for coming to earth as one of us? Help us to celebrate this feast of Christmas as your faithful followers with awe at the mystery of your coming through Mary, given to us as our Mother. We pray in Jesus name. Amen.

Luke 1:26-35a, 38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God
to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,
to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph,
of the house of David,
and the virgin's name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said,
“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.”

But she was greatly troubled at what was said
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.
Then the angel said to her,
“Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.”

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus.
He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father,
and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

But Mary said to the angel,
“How can this be,
since I have no relations with a man?”
And the angel said to her in reply,
“The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

...

Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord,
May it be done to me according to your word.”