

Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in December, 2020

Introduction

Leader When we try to imagine the uncertainty Mary faced at the conception and birth of Jesus, we can begin to recognize the power of trusting God's protective care for each of us.

Opening Prayer

All Loving God, we come to you at this Advent time with hearts open to your gift of trust. We are grateful for Mary's response to your invitation to become the mother of our Savior, Jesus Christ. May her example of trust inspire us always. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Word of God Luke 1:26-38

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke *(The reading is on the reverse side. Pause for silent reflection after the reading.)*

Optional Discuss these questions in two's or three's.

- How has Mary's example affected your life as a committed follower of Jesus?
- Discuss Mary's strength. How can you relate this to your life today?

Response (Taken from Luke 1:26-38)

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

Side 2 In times of doubt and fear, may remembering Mary's trust in God's protection help us deal with our concerns.

Side 1 "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son and you will name him Jesus."

Side 2 How grateful we are for the Incarnation, the gift of Jesus, both God and human!

Side 1 "Mary said, 'Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.'"

Side 2 Lord, give us the gift of trust that you can accomplish your will in us as individuals and as a people dedicated to your service.

Petitions Individuals add intentions to remember here.

Closing Prayer

All Generous God, we thank you for Mary as our model of trust. Help us to trust your word by reflecting on your teachings so that Jesus can be born in us. We ask this in his name with gratitude for Mary's gracious response. Amen.

A reading from the Gospel of Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent by 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 will 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.”

...

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