

Sermon Notes

Fourth Sunday of Advent WTF?

Luke 1:26-38 December 19, 2021

Historically, when was the very first church service?

- A. At the Manger
- B. At the Last Supper
- C. At Pentecost
- D. None of the above

IMAGINE MARY'S REACTION

Luke 1:27b-28, 31 *The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."...You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.*

Luke 1:29 *... she was greatly troubled and disturbed and confused at what he said and kept revolving in her mind what such a greeting might mean.*

Would you welcome an angel who would turn all your dreams for a safe and ordinary life upside down?

The angel tries to reassure Mary:

Luke 1:30 *But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.*

Luke 1:34 *Oh my God! How will this be," Mary screamed at the angel, "since I am a virgin?"*

IF GOD DID CONCEIVDE THIS, THEN AS DISTURBING AS IT SEEMS, IT WILL SAVE YOUR LIFE

Romans 8:28 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, [that is those who trust enough to make space for God to work in the midst of their turmoil] who have been called according to His purpose.*

"What good is it to me if Jesus was born to Mary 2000 years ago if he is not born to me in my time?" - Meister Eckhart

Advent Practice: Learning to wait, learning to seek, learning to listen for God's movement

"Whatever happens this week – whether it feels like a blessing or a problem – where is God in this situation, and how can I get on board with what He is doing?"

When God intervenes – whether it is in something God initiated or something the world imposed on us – our choice is to shut down, or to make space to see what God may be up to.

Luke 1:38 *"May it be to me as you have said."*

Spiritual Path: from *troubled* to *terror* to *trust*.

MARY VISITS AUNT ELIZABETH

Luke 1:41 *When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.*

We worship when we gather in the presence of Christ and allow the Holy Spirit to fill our soul.

Luke 1:43 *But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?*