

12-24-23 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Perhaps Mary's words deliver God's Christmas wish,
that followers of Christ will believe that nothing is impossible with God,
and invite the Holy Spirit to work through them to attain miracles.”

- Ashley Cook Cleere



Luke 1:26-38, 46b-55 ✠ Luke 2:1-20

Questions for Reflection —

- What is God working within you? What would it look like for you to be a vessel of God's love and a bearer of that love to the world? What cultural, political, and social realities run counter to God's compassionate love for all of humanity? What tangible action can you take to embody for the sake of others the Love that comes down at Christmas? What actions might our congregation take to help bring healing to the divisions and challenges of our day?

- What do you think God's Christmas wish is for you and for our congregation? What are you/we being invited to co-create with the God in your life, in our community, and in the world? What might God be calling you individually or our congregation collectively to do that presently seems unimaginable? How might you/we be more open to God's possibilities?

- What are you treasuring and pondering in your heart in this Christmas season? What will help you open your heart to God's Word-Made-Flesh? When have you been most aware of the presence of Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-Us? How will you continue to cultivate awareness of Jesus' presence with you in your daily life? What spiritual practices will enable you to nourish God's Word in your life?

Daily Household Prayer

Gracious God, your servant Mary discovered new life growing within her and knew it to be your promised presence. In tender reverence for the holy mystery of your Incarnation, may we be as a womb for your blessed presence, ready to receive and nourish your Word in our lives, open to the stirrings of your Spirit within us. May we faithfully bear your love in the world, that by your grace Christ may be born in us. Amen.