



Luke 1:26-38 New International Version

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"^[a]

²⁹ But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible."

³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Chaos – Joseph Waiting from Elizabeth and Zachariah

Advent is Christian life in four weeks.



THE FORGOTTEN CHRISTMAS

Christmas is an unqualified YES TO GOD

**Just because it's not what you were expecting,
doesn't mean it's not what you were waiting for.**

Christmas is CONFRONTATIONAL

The Lord is with you: REJOICE or be TROUBLED

How can this be? God what are you doing here?

Mary responds CONFIDENTLY

She knows Herself: "I am the maidservant of the Lord"

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? Psalm 8:3-4

She trusts GOD: "According to your word"

The word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. Ps 33:4

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding Pr 3:5

She LIVES it: "Let it be to me"

Mary's Life Giving PRAYER

Let be to me according to your Word.

Just because its not what you were expecting, doesn't mean it's not what you were waiting for.

John Wesley's Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.

So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

Simeon and Anna -

What do we do with young, pregnant girls without the benefit of matrimony in our churches? How do we treat them? What do we call them? The ancient church fathers later called this unwed mother *Theotokos* -- the God-bearer.

I always want to know what my next move in life is going to be, I'm a planner. So when things change unexpectedly, it takes me a few moments to work out where to go from there. And when I look to God for answers, I am not prepared to wait! 'I need to know, now! God.' I tell him. What I'm going to do with my future is still unclear.

He loved her even though he thought she had been unfaithful to him. His love covered her shame.

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

"The love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved." Matthew 24:13

"Peace. It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart." – unknown

Bethlehem always happens in the midst of bedlam. Christmas or confusion, Bethlehem or bedlam...Which will you choose this year? The truth is, we don't have to choose, because Christmas always happens right in the midst of our confusion. God breaks into our confusion and is made known as a human infant. Christmas and confusion--weren't they intimately related at the first Christmas when Jesus was born? Sometimes we forget that