

## Luke 1:26 – 38

<sup>26</sup> Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord *is* with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was very perplexed at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; <sup>33</sup> and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

## Luke 1:46 – 51

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:  
"My soul exalts the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.  
<sup>48</sup> "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant;  
For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.  
<sup>49</sup> "For the Mighty One has done great things for me;  
And holy is His name.  
<sup>50</sup> "AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION  
TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.  
<sup>51</sup> "He has done mighty deeds with His arm;  
He has scattered *those who were* proud in the thoughts of their heart.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional

First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren

December 8th, 2019

Second Sunday of Advent

Morning Service:

Luke 1: 26 – 38

### The Gospel According to Gabriel

1. Gabriel Waited 500 Years to See This Promise Fulfilled.
2. The Redeemer Is Coming to Fulfill All His Promises.
3. How Will We Respond to the Angel's Message?

We, and all creatures, are necessarily limited. We are by definition finite. Gabriel is a creature too with limitations, but he stands in the presence of the infinite God and Creator of all. He knows that nothing is impossible with God and comes to declare, no matter how improbable it seems, that God is in fact faithfully keeping His promise to send a Deliverer for His people. So how will we respond? How will you respond?

Evening Service:

Steve Thrall

Matthew 1: 1 – 17

### The Surprising Gift

Notes:

## The Second Week of Advent—December 8-14

### Taking Gathered Worship Home

#### Sunday AM

READ **Luke 1:26-38; Daniel 8:15-9:27**. DISCUSS, What is Gabriel sent to proclaim? How is he received each time? THANK God for His faithfulness to us and His promises.

#### Sunday PM

READ tonight's passages: **Matthew 1:1-17**. DISCUSS, How does what we do demonstrate what we truly believe? How can we help one another? PRAISE God for His faithfulness.

#### Monday-Saturday

#### 1. READ Candle Lighting litany—The Angels' Candle

**Leader: Why do we light the Advent candles?**

*Family: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life."*

**Leader: What is the meaning of the second lighted candle?**

*Family: The second lighted candle represents the angels proclaiming Christ's birth.*

**Leader: Who were the angels?**

*Family: The angels were created by God to fill the heavenly court with the praise of His name. They devote themselves to serving God in heaven by delighting to do His will. God also uses them as messengers of His Good News to men and women on earth.*

**Leader: What do the Gospels say about the angels?**

*Family: Luke writes, "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.'"*

2. LIGHT the first two Advent Candles.

3. READ aloud Luke 1:26-38.

4. SING *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*.

#### "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Wesley, Charles / Mendelssohn, Felix

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."	2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord; Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail, the incarnate Deity! Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."
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3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by,	Born that man no more may die; Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
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5. PRAY: "Great God and deliverer, open our minds to see our bondage to the flesh, the world, and the devil. Forgive us for making careers, relationships and other things the rulers of our affections. Set us free from our fears and sins that you may be the true desire of our longing hearts. We look forward to your return, Blessed Messiah, when you will rule supreme in all our hearts as you raise us to your glorious throne. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen."

#### Advent—Awaiting the Coming Messiah

Advent is a time of waiting. It reminds us that Christ is coming just as He promised. It is also important how we wait. Are we just killing time anticipating His return or is there something we are supposed to be doing as we wait? How should the hope within us inform our minds and enflame our hearts as we wait? What if it doesn't? God has given us His Word, Spirit, and Church to help us rightly understand and apply this hope in life. Want more information? Call Pastor Doug @ (802) 457-1304.

Please see *FCCW 2019 Advent Devotional* for more information.

*December 19 Christmas Dinner and Pageant @ 5:30pm*

*December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7pm*