

The Rev. Dr. Susan Vande Kappelle '95  
Pastor, Laboratory Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Morning Psalms 33; 146

First Reading Isaiah 29:9-24

Second Reading Revelation 21:9-21

**Gospel Luke 1:26-38**

Evening Psalms 85; 94

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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I recently participated in the birthing of my daughter's son. Although I have given birth to two children and now witnessed one directly, I have no idea how a baby is born. And I certainly cannot imagine that God could somehow be born into this world.

We talk easily of the glory of God, and yet it is beyond description or understanding. Like Mary we are overshadowed. It is beyond us, incomprehensible; yet we receive it. The Son of God was born of a woman like each one of us. And God's glory is present in this dark and hurting world. All we can do in our stupor is say "yes" as Mary did and sit in awe and wonder. And perhaps sometimes cry or sing for joy.

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*Prayer: God of wonder and grace, forgive our blindness and deafness when it comes to our comprehension of your work among us. Give us new insights this holy season. And help us to share your glory with someone today. Amen.*