

ADVENT 4, 2020

**"God of hope, I look to you with an open heart and yearning spirit. During this Advent season, I will keep alert and awake, listening for your word and keeping to your precepts. My hope is in you." ~ Matthew Kelly**

In the season of advent we light four candles, one each Sunday of advent. Advent signifies the arrival of a notable person or event, in our case it is the arrival of the messiah, Christ, the son of God. For such an enormous event we must be prepared, we have to ready ourselves physically, mentally and spiritually. We do this with the four candles of advent:

The candle of HOPE, a hope that a savior will save us from the sin of the world.

The candle of PEACE. The Hebrew word for peace is *Shalom*, *Shalom* goes far beyond not fighting with others or peace as we know it. Shalom is, in essence, how things are meant to be: a slice of heaven.

The candle of JOY reflects the joy that comes through Jesus' arrival, and through the salvation he has gifted us.

And the candle of LOVE, not an ordinary love but AGAPE LOVE. An 'unselfish love with no encumbrances'. God's love for his people.

Which brings us to today's Gospel, .... the angel Gabriel visits Mary.

Now, when I study a reading, I read it several times, then

I select two or three passages or words that stand out to

Me. I want to look at three passages that stand out for me:

- 1) "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be."
- 2) "you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High"
- 3) "For nothing will be impossible with God."

Some of my thoughts:

I am quite sure Mary was perplexed; she is being visited by a messenger from God!

What would you do if you received such a greeting? I know I would be in total disbelief, I would probably deny the visit even took place. I think Mary was special..... really special she must have felt she had a calling, a calling that no man or any other woman could do. She was to give birth and raise her son...the Son of God and then gift her son to the world. Think about it; God chose a woman a, young woman, a peasant woman, to love and cherish His Son, then gift him to the world. Imagine having the responsibility of raising the son of God! Mary and her husband Joseph accepted the responsibility, and raised Jesus as their own, diapers and all. And when the time came Mary gave her son to God at the Wedding at Cana. In the second chapter of John's Gospel Mary, Jesus, and the disciples are invited to a wedding, Something horrible had happened the wine had run out. This would be quite embarrassing for the host. Mary told Jesus the wine has run out, Jesus responded "woman what concern is that to you and me my hour has not come yet" Mary does not respond to Jesus, she simply says to the servants "do as he says". Jesus turns water into wine, the best wine of the feast..... At that moment in time Jesus was no longer the son of Mary and Joseph, he became the "Son of the Most High", the Son of God.

As I said, Mary was special, very special; she knew her calling was complete. She understood Gods love for her and for the world..... Jesus became ***Son of the Most High***

A perfect hymn for today is #265

**The angel Gabriel form heaven came,**

*The angel Gabriel form heaven came,*

*His wings as drifted snow, his eyes of flame;*

*"all hail" said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary*

*Most highly favored lady. Gloria!*

Mary is special indeed!

The alternate Psalm reading for today is **Canticle 15 the Song of Mary** also known as  
the *Magnificant*

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.*

We will soon light the candle of Light.....

Are you prepared to answer your calling?

Remember, **“For nothing will be impossible with God.”**

Respectfully submitted by

Jim Klopstock LLP

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