



## Advent Reflection for Thursday, December 8th

For the podcast click [here](#) to listen.

Luke 1: 34-38

Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?\*' 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.' 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.

---

Reflection by Erin McNaughton:

Mary, an angel, Elizabeth. I don't have the reaction I think I'm supposed to have to this reading. I am not swept away by Mary's grace and acceptance. I see her in sky blue robes, rosy cheeks and I am really uncomfortable. I want to protect her and Elizabeth from the heartbreak that is coming and that may have already started.

The proposed encounter with the Holy Spirit does not strike me as beautiful or transformative but rather terrifying. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you". This sounds like a bad date I don't want any part of.

And yet I know many people who find this to be a beautiful encounter. Who find Mary's reaction to be inspiring and hopeful. So what am I missing?

Grace. Faith. Acceptance. Perhaps these are the lessons here for me. Grace to listen for God. Faith that I will understand. And acceptance that I can also be an instrument of God's will on this earth.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

---

Erin McNaughton lives a few blocks from the church and started coming in 2018 and regularly in 2019. She's found a reconciliation with her childhood faith through this community. She spends a lot of time with her dog Bella in the park and is excited for gardening season.

