

DECEMBER 24, 2017  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*Mary is the model disciple.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 1:26-38</b>	<b>The birth of Jesus foretold</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Titus 2:11-14</b>	<b>God's kindness</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Isaiah 9:2-7</b>	<b>The coming king</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Titus 3:4-7</b>	<b>The mercy of God</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>John 1:1-14</b>	<b>The word became flesh</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Isaiah 52:7-10</b>	<b>Message of hope</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 96</b>	<b>Sing a new song</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 2:22-40</b>	<b>Jesus presented in the temple</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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.

**Luke 1:38 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear loving God, give us the faith like Mary to accept the good news of Jesus' birth and confidence to go out into the world as a servant of your love in Christ. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord God, thank you for the gift of food, family, and friends as signs of your love for us. Most of all, thank you for your gift of Jesus. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord be with you. May God's favor rest on you and the Holy Spirit come to you and give you peace. (Luke 1:28-30, 35)



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Hark! The Herald  
Angels Sing*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Can you remember a time when you had an unexpected visitor? Tell your story.
- What would you have thought and felt if you were Mary and received the message from the angel Gabriel that you would give birth to God's son?
- In Luke, Mary serves as the model disciple. She is chosen by God and responds with confusion (Luke 1:29), questioning (Luke 1:34), and then acceptance (Luke 1:38). How would you describe your journey of faith in Christ?

### DEVOTIONS



December 24 is the fourth Sunday in Advent. Continue to use an Advent wreath with four blue or purple candles and a white center candle, and use the following words:

*Say:* The fourth candle on our Advent wreath is the peace candle. There is peace in accepting God's call to trust God's promises and be a follower of Jesus. When Mary said, ". . . Let it be with me according to your word," she expresses a peace that passes all human understanding. [Light the first, second, third, and fourth candles.]

*Read:* Philippians 4:7. *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Pray:* **Dear God, we thank you for the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the one who comes to bring peace on earth now and forevermore. Amen.**

### SERVICE



As a disciple of Jesus, reach out to people in need this week. Bring food or gifts to someone who is alone or in need of care. With your time or money, support an organization that works on behalf of the hungry or homeless. Find ways to be a servant of others in your own home during this busy time of year.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Christmas caroling is a well known tradition during this time of year. The tunes lift our spirits and the words encourage us. As disciples of Christ take time to sing or listen to some favorite Christmas hymns.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)