



Week 4

LOVE

Daily Prayer:

Gracious God, you chose the virgin Mary, by Your grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour: so fill us with your grace, that with her we may rejoice in Your salvation, and in all things embrace Your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Day 1

Read: **Matthew 1:18-25**

Read: **Luke 2:1-21**

No commentary today. Just ponder on the “eipcnness” of this whole event. Engage your imagination and read through again. Imagine being a shepherd and going through this night.

Read: **Matthew 2**

Again, just engage with this passage. Imagine the anticipation of the wise men, the insecure fear of Herod, the protectiveness of Joseph, the roller coaster for Mary, the guidance and sovereignty of our Father.



Christmas Day!!!!!!

Read: **Luke 1:26-38**

What a rollercoaster for Mary.

1. She is troubled by the meaning of his greeting. Have you ever been like that? Someone begins to tell you what they believe God has for you, and at the opening line, before they get anywhere, you begin to freak out.

2. She has questions. How? That might be the question you respond with. My most frequent who, what, where, when, why, how question would have to be “when?” What’s yours?

Often, God gives us the way without any of the detail. Fortunately for Mary, He gives her the how. By the Holy Spirit, and with power. When: 9 months. Who: you, then Jesus. Why? Well, Jesus means Yahweh saves, so that would have been a clue.





Mary's response is as epic as a response to God can be: "Yes, I am a servant of the Lord: let this happen to me according to Your Word". Surrender. Submission. Up for it.

This passage's focus is v31-33. Read them again slowly:

He shall reign forever and ever. His Kingdom will never, ever, end.



Christmas Night

Read: **Luke 2:22-40**

We come full circle today. In our readings across advent, we saw John the Baptist ask, “is it really You, Jesus, that we have been waiting for, or should we wait for another?”

Here, we have a man whose last thing on the bucket list, the one thing left to do before He dies, is to see the Lord’s Christ – the anointed one. He declares Him to be the salvation for all the world: Israel and the Gentiles. Israel and Gaza. Israel and Palestine. Russia and Ukraine. Tearing down every wall of hostility that remains between us.





Anna, the prophetess arrives on the scene with confirmation that this is the One. And now, we wait. If we have received His salvation, eternity has started right now for us, for even if we die, we will live. Death is defeated, sin is conquered, but we wait for the restoration of all things, when Jesus will come and reign on the earth, conquering all rules and authorities who are against His redemptive, restorative plan.

Christmas: we remember He came, and all He did and achieved – and we remember He is coming again.