

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Year B  
December 18, 2011  
St. Luke Sheboygan Falls  
Luke 1:26-38

Dialogue with Mary the Mother of Jesus

**PASTOR:** This morning I'd like to focus on Mary, the woman that God chose to be the mother of the Christ.

**MARY (enters the church):** Hello, hello? I think I'm lost. Is this the way to Jerusalem? I'm on my way to visit my cousin Elizabeth near there.

**PASTOR:** Wait a moment. What is your name?

**MARY:** My name is Mary. I come from the town of Nazareth.

**PASTOR:** Mary? You mean *the* Mary. Mother of Jesus, Mary?

**MARY:** Right now I'm not the mother of anyone. (looks down at stomach) Am I showing already? I really wanted to tell Joseph first. We're supposed to get married.

**PASTOR:** You're not showing, honestly. I just, well, heard your story. Tell me, what have we done to deserve this visit?

**MARY:** Actually, I was wondering the same thing—what have I done to deserve this? I don't know what to call it, a blessing or a curse.

**PASTOR:** Maybe we can help. Tell us your story.

**MARY:** You're not going to believe it.

**PASTOR:** You might be surprised. Try us.

**MARY:** Well...all right. I don't have anyone else to tell. My parents will disown me. And I'm not sure what Joseph will do. He could break our engagement and leave me to be stoned to death.

**PASTOR:** Oh, dear.

**MARY:** I'm getting ahead of myself. The angel told me not to be afraid. That I had found favor with God.

**PASTOR:** That sounds comforting.

**MARY:** It does, doesn't it? I suppose I should trust in God no matter what happens, but it's very hard. The angel told me incredible things. Even though I'm a virgin and have never been with a man, I'm going to have a baby.

**PASTOR:** Did the angel tell you how that is possible?

**MARY:** The angel said that anything is possible with God. He said that the Holy Spirit would come to me and my child would be the Son of God.

**PASTOR:** Wow!

**MARY:** That's what I said. Actually, I didn't know what to say. I was in shock. But it was God asking this of me, what could I say? I said, "I am God's servant. Do what you want to me according to your word." And so, it happened. I can feel the baby growing inside me.

**PASTOR:** That's incredible.

**MARY:** It's scary is what it is. Every day I pray for the strength to do this alone.

**PASTOR:** If I were you, I'd talk to Joseph. You might be surprised at his response.

**MARY:** He is a very kind and righteous man. I'm glad my parents chose him for me to marry. That is, if we ever get married now that this has happened.

**PASTOR:** Don't worry, Mary. I have a feeling this will all work out.

**MARY:** You know, I do too. I already love this child. I've always wanted to be a mother. I just imagined it differently. I'm starting to trust that God is with me.

**PASTOR:** Do you have any thoughts about why God chose you?

**MARY:** No idea. I'm pretty ordinary and far from perfect. My family is poor. I'm from a tiny village. I was excited about getting married and starting a new life and family with Joseph. I hope I still can. I only want to follow God's will as well as I can. All I can think of is that if God wants to use me, I am willing to let Him.