

**Parishes of Stainton, Hilton and Brookfield**  
**20<sup>th</sup> December 2020 ADVENT 4**



**Welcome**

Today we remember Mary. A lowly village girl called to do something mighty for God which would change her life forever – She couldn't know it then – but her decision would change the world.

**Thought for the day**

God's promised Kingdom, announced both to King David and to Mary by the angel Gabriel, will go on for ever.

*Susan Sayer*

**COLLECT**

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**The second book of Samuel.**

**7.1–11, 16**

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.' But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in

their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

**CANTICLE Luke 1.46b–55**

My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. For he has looked with favour 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 forebears: to Abraham and his children for ever. My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour

**The letter of Paul to the Romans.**

**16.25-27**

**To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen**

**The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. 1.26-38**

**In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for**

**ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**Lord of heaven, may your church be quiet enough to hear your voice, Humble enough to move your way, And excited enough to spread the good news.**

**Let all in positions of authority act with humility and a sense of right; may unjust practices be changed for good and conflicts of great tension be peacefully resolved.**

**Lord, make our homes places of loving acceptance and teach us in all our friendships to grow in generosity of spirit.**

**Lord, when waiting is long and painful give courage to those who wait. Bring healing to all who are suffering; whether physically or**

**emotionally, and give them the assurance of your presence.**

**Lord, welcome into your eternity those who have died to this life and comfort those who mourn them . Reach into their pain with your love.**

**Lord of Heaven , we thank you for your faithful promise to us , fulfilled in the coming of Jesus. Help us to welcome him into our lives.**

**Let us join with Christians the world over as we say the Lord's Prayer**

**In Mary's time Jewish girls could be betrothed as early as 12 years and a day. First of all there was the betrothal and then -after an interval of several months, perhaps a year - the young girl would have been taken to the house of her husband to be and once they started to live together, they were considered properly married. The choice of husband was a legal agreement between the father and the husband. Girls did not have a part in that legality.**

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