



Advent - A Season of Divine Expectation

The Christmas story is "full of expectation," wouldn't you say? When the angel, Gabriel, suddenly appeared to Mary in the village of Nazareth and announced to her that she was pregnant with God's son, Mary welled up with a holy sense of expectation of what was to come (Luke 1:26-38). She was so overjoyed that she quickly went to be with her cousin, Elizabeth, who was also expecting a child. We hear in the Gospel of Luke (1:46-55), the passionate song that Mary sings in response to the Good News!

Do you have a moment in your life you can point to when you have been **full of expectation**? I mean to the point where you can hardly contain yourself and your excitement. You probably had to go and tell someone because you just couldn't keep it bottled up. The holidays were approaching the year when Beth and I discovered that we were expecting our first child, Daniel. He would be the first grandchild on either side of our families, so this announcement was going to be a very big deal. It had been 5 years since we had gotten married, so there was an expectation that one of these days we would be expecting. Somehow, Beth and I managed to keep it a secret until Christmas morning, when we would be gathered with both sets of parents and our brothers. It was fun having our little secret that no one else knew about. As each family member opened up a card with a letter we had written to announce the pregnancy, they quickly came over to offer hugs and congratulations. It was a day none of us would forget.

The question for us is: As a community of faith: **What is it that we are expecting to see God do among us?** Do we have a Christmas-like sense of expectation anymore? Or do we look at ourselves like an "Elizabeth" in her old age who was assumed to be barren, thinking that God is through with us and that we have nothing left to offer? Or do we think of ourselves as "Mary" who was so unknown and inexperienced in life, thinking that God would only want to use people who are "more important" than us?

I pray that we, like Mary, will discover a holy sense of expectation once again during this Advent season. Remember: With God all things are possible!

Advent Blessings,

Pastor David

December 1, 2016