

Prayer

Let us enter into a time of prayer

In Mary's response to the angel and to her cousin, Elizabeth, we get a glimpse into the essence of prayer. She finds within herself the courage to say "yes" with no strings attached. She asks for support while fearful of rejection. She has doubts and she gives voice to those doubts and in doing so, she finds comfort. She expresses gratitude and delight in the gift she is given and as the events unfold late in her pregnancy, she stays steady with an inner faith that grounds her in the knowing that God is with she and Joseph. She doesn't know the future to come, yet she sees in the eyes of her child, hope!

As we enter into our time of prayer it may be difficult to find that "unconditional yes" within us for there is so much going on around us, we may struggle to find the courage to accept things as they are when, what is, isn't how we envisioned them, and the wisdom to stay steady in the midst of doubts and fears and hope for an unknown future may seem distant and a challenge to latch on to. Yet Mary shows us that we, too, can be filled with the courage, comfort, gratitude, delight, and steadiness that was given to her when she said "welcome" to the little one she held in her arms that eve in the stable.

Let us take a few moments to voice all that is on our hearts this day. I invite you to say your prayer out loud or in the silence of our heart.

We lift all these prayers up to you confident that you have heard us. We say "yes" to the unfolding of these next few days and experience as Mary did, Love, born and reborn in us that is ours with no strings attached.

Gifts and Thanksgiving

As we prepare to pass the baskets, be generous of heart as Mary gave so freely of herself with little knowledge of what was to come. Give with an expectant heart that your gift will send Love ripples to all who receive yours and our gifts.

Let us give thanks

We give thanks for the receptivity of Elizabeth and Zachariah that shows us the graciousness that lies within each of us.

We give thanks for the “unconditional yes” that Mary spoke. We too have that “yes” within us.

We give thanks for the many ways you call us to bring your Love into this world.

What else are you grateful for this day

Divine Spark that lights this world, we give thanks for these blessings and gifts we offer. May they send ripples out into this world, cause leaps of joy, moments of comfort, and protection for all those in need.