

## AND SO, IT BEGINS

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

December 20, 2020

**Message:** After many years of unknowingness, God makes a large entrance. So large that God has to recruit a team from Galilee, to fulfill the prophecy contained in the Hebrew Scriptures. It's a new beginning but also a continuation of the story of God. Just like in Genesis, there was an intermediate period and then God speaks life into existence. God turns chaos into something beautiful. God does this by telling Mary that she is going to give birth to a holy child. And so, it begins.

God chooses Mary to be God's vessel to bring Jesus, the Son of God into this world. Mary is what makes Jesus truly human. By God choosing Mary, God sets in motion the way we will think about Jesus. In this passage, God shows the story of God with us. That there is the God who creates, the God who saves, and the God who sustains.

Because of this passage, it gives birth to trinitarian theology with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. What this means for us is that Mary helps bring God into human flesh. Mary is helping us understand and see God in a new way. This is no small task and Mary responds by saying, "Here I am...be with me according to your word."

God presents us with huge, life-altering tasks and sometimes super tiny ones. To be a favored one, to be a vessel of God, we must respond with "Here I am." Let us all be like Mary, a vessel used by God to do life-changing work!

**Prayer:** O God of love and justice, the God who gives us life, allow us the grace to be like Mary. Use us to be vessels of you so we can proclaim you, and not turn away. Allow us the courage and faith to follow after You at all times. We pray this in the name of Christ. Amen.

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