

Reflection on Luke 1:46-55 Magnificat

In our Gospel, we hear Mary's great song of praise, known as the Magnificat. Gabriel has visited her, and told her she will have a child, Jesus - and that Elizabeth her elderly relative was already 6 months 'with child', so she sets off to visit her relative. When Elizabeth sees and hears Mary, she is filled with the Holy Spirit, sensing this is no ordinary woman - or pregnancy. It is Mary's profound song of praise, in response, that has become so well-known and loved.

We know little about Mary; she was a 'hidden' person; quietly devout, quite unremarkable on one level; easily 'missed'.

Mary trusted Gabriel's message. She didn't blindly say yes, but enquired 'how can this be?' Mary was willing to put herself on the line, in humble obedience, and openness to God's will, risking disgrace and rejection by her fiancée, family and community.

But for all her meekness, Mary's song, is hugely insightful and quite revolutionary.

Jesus' life and teaching turned society's and 'the world's' rules on their heads; Mary had a grasp of these paradoxes even before Jesus was born.

We can be encouraged that God so often chooses the least likely people for certain tasks, seeing the potential that others miss, knowing us inside-out. There are no 'no-hopers' or 'write-offs' in God's book.

Mary also proclaims 'He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty'. Again, society's rules are turned on their heads!

We give thanks to God, for choosing the most ordinary among us to do His work, if we are willing. We give thanks for Mary - her humility, her obedience, her trust.

Rev'd Alison



Codes for the Zoom worship at 6pm

These are codes for Sundays from 04.07.21 until the end of August

Meeting ID: 859 7288 7300

Passcode: 605760

Telephone numbers (unchanged) 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 22.08.2021 12th Sunday after Trinity

SERVICES 10.30am in Church, 6pm by Zoom

READINGS

OT	Joshua 24: 1-2a, 14-18
NT	Ephesians 6: 10-20
GOSPEL	John 6: 56-69



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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 15th August 2021

The Blessed Virgin Mary

10.30am Mass in Church

6pm via Zoom

Back to Church Sunday has continued more than I would have thought, but without the prosecco we had first time—in other words, and more importantly, we saw some more people last Sunday whom we have not seen since the beginning of lockdown—a very sincere **Welcome Back!** And of course, it's great to see lots of familiar faces, even if we are still wearing masks.

Rev'd Alison writing about the **Magnificat** in the Reflection today reminds me of the words of a favourite hymn which we will sing at the 10.30 Mass:

*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.*

Fr David



Collect

Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Revelation 11: 19– 12: 6,10

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; and there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail. A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, 'Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

Galatians 4: 4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in

order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Luke 1: 46-55

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Post Communion

God most high, whose handmaid bore the Word made flesh: we thank you that in this sacrament of our redemption you visit us with your Holy Spirit and overshadow us by your power; strengthen us to walk with Mary the joyful path of obedience and so to bring forth the fruits of holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Just to underline the new pattern of Sunday worship: Mass in Church at 10.30, and an online Zoom service of Evening Worship at 6pm, codes overleaf.

4th August onwards **BCP Holy Common** in Church at 10am on Wednesdays.

Mary Long You are all welcome to a Memorial Service for Mary on 20 August at 2pm.

Mask wearing is still advised by the Church of England for services in church.

8th August onwards. Coffee and tea will be offered after the 10.30am Mass. It will be served from the Servery in the North Transept. If the weather is good, there will be seats outside the North Transept to gather for fellowship. If the weather is poor, we will serve in the Nave.

House Group. On holiday until September!

Community Larder The Community Larder will be paused on **Tuesday 17th August** and will resume on **Tuesday 24th August** from 10am-12noon.

Knit and Natter *Update for August 2021*

We have decided unanimously to meet weekly on Thursdays in St Thomas Pleasure Ground, from 10.30 to 12 noon. If it's wet, at 19 Maple Road. All details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

200 Club If you would like to join the 200 Club there is a Standing Order form on the website (or ask the churchwarden).

Young at Hearts 25th August 2-4pm Natter or Cream Tea.

Mailing the Pew Sheet Over the next few weeks we will be progressively reducing the mail-out in the ordinary post. Pew Sheets will still be available on Sunday mornings.

