

Advent Devotional - Day 02

2025

December 2nd

Scripture: Luke 1:26-28 Verse: *"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.'"*



Reflection:

Gabriel stunned Mary because God's favor showed up in a simple home and on an ordinary young woman, not in a palace or on a public figure. This surprising moment flips everything and is a central point of the Christmas story: God keeps choosing the overlooked—the young, the poor, and the ones whose names do not make the morning headlines—and values faithfulness and willingness over status, credentials, or fame.

When you look at it like this, Mary's "yes" isn't just a spiritual ideal — it's a down-to-earth example of what following Jesus looks like day to day. Saying yes cost her something: it meant humility, trust, and the courage to face social consequences for a promise she couldn't fully explain. Her choice points us to the small, costly yeses all around us — the teacher who stays late to help a struggling student, the volunteer sorting winter coats in a cold church basement, the parent who keeps calm and steady in a chaotic home and the uncle who always shows up to support and encourage his niece and nephews. Those quiet acts of faith are where God's work really takes root.

For Mt Hope, Mary's example asks the church to lift up people who keep showing up, to make room for quiet faithfulness, and to build ministries that let ordinary folks serve without needing approval or applause. Saying yes like Mary looks like sharing hospitality at a kitchen table, consistent mentoring, sacrificial giving, and small mercies that make Jesus visible in our streets.

Responding to Mary's yes means asking what actually produces lasting good, not what gets noticed. It means choosing to serve in ways that will cost our time, comfort, or reputation, because change usually comes from steady, repeated care—not one big show or event. When a community values and celebrates those quiet yeses, God shows up not just in songs and sermons but in warmed porches, classrooms, softball fields, an election line, and a church like Mt. Hope that truly feel like home.

Prayer:

Lord, grant us humble hearts to hear Your call, steady courage to answer it without counting the cost, and the grace to serve faithfully so others see You through our lives. Amen.

Today's Mt Hope Mindful Response Challenge:

Thank someone in your church or neighborhood who quietly serves and tell them why their work matters.



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