Third Week of Advent

Monday 14 December 2020

Reflection 16 – Day 16
MAGNIFY!

> *"My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour!"*
> (Luke 1.46 NRSV)

What an incredible statement. What an awesome announcement! This is the beginning line of the Magnificat, the poem of praise that Mary utters.

The depth and fullness that is through this poem is amazing too. Mary realises the incredible honour that has been bestowed upon her and is quite right in saying that, *"from now on all generations will call me blessed"* (v.48).

Mary then goes on to proclaim some of the most powerful theological statements: *"His mercy is for those who fear him from generation from generation"* (v.50)

She announces freedom for the captive and the complete overthrow of the social order that is to come. We don't often think of Mary as a prophetess, but that is certainly what she is here:

> *"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 resemblance of his mercy,*
> *according to the promise he made to our ancestors,*
> *to Abraham and to his descendants for ever."* (v.51-55)

This is the kingdom that God is establishing through Jesus. Moreover, God uses Mary, a young girl, likely a teenager, to not only announce this, but to carry the God child, the very presence of God, within her. As the tabernacle in the temple was where the presence of God was found, Mary is the new tabernacle!

How does this passage speak to you? Maybe it's the call for social justice? Or maybe it is that God used to and still does use ordinary people at the very heart of His plans.

Father God,

Thank you for sending your Son to bring about your kingdom.

Thank you that I am important to you and that you want to use me.

Thank you for Mary's *Yes*, help me to be as faithful as her, *let it be with me according to your word.*

Amen