

A WEEKLY WORD

December 22nd , 2024, Advent 4

Lois Drover

READINGS: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

These readings bring us back to the beginning of our salvation. From the angel's visit to Zechariah to tell him that Elizabeth would have a child in her old age, to the angel visiting Mary to tell her that she would bear a son even though she was a virgin. Talk about miracles!

Elizabeth must have been beyond surprised to find out she was expecting. Her husband couldn't even tell her because he had been struck mute. Until John was born and he declared the name of the baby, Zechariah couldn't tell his story. I doubt Elizabeth could read, she was a poor peasant woman, likely uneducated.

Then Mary, her really young relative comes to visit, and immediately the baby in Elizabeth's womb jumps for joy and she is filled with the Holy Spirit. Before this, only prophets were filled with the Holy Spirit. It all must have been very overwhelming.

As for Mary, she has had a rough time of it, because she wasn't married, and being a very young woman, really a girl, she could have been stoned to death for this. Joseph, at first, was very upset. His betrothed was pregnant and he wasn't the father! Then another angel appears on the scene and tells him to not be concerned because the baby Mary is carrying is of the Holy Spirit.

All of this reads like a fiction novel from today. The difference is that it comes from the Bible, the inspired Word of God. If we don't believe all this, then we might as well discard the whole book!

God is a God of Miracles and fantastic things! Nothing is too hard for Him, and as I said before this is the beginning of our salvation. Without all these happenings we would have no hope, no reason to have joy. There would be no Cross, no Resurrection, no hope.

So, celebrate the Reason for the Season! Jesus, the Redeemer, past, present and future,
the Joy of our Salvation!

Merry Christmas from our house to yours..