

Sunday, December 10

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:26-56

**Text for Today:** *And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor 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.”*

Recently a young man confided to me that he hoped to never father any children. He listed the reasons why noting everything from the high cost of college to the threat of terrorist attack. “You’d have to be crazy to bring a baby into this world,” he concluded.

This world is surely an imperfect place, and raising children is arguably the most difficult thing we ever do. And yet, people keep having babies. Why do we do it?

I figure we procreate because we have hope. We know that there are difficulties ahead, but we have the hope that the new life we co-create with God will make our lives more abundant. That life may even make the world a better place. We may be crazy, but we have hope that—with God’s help—this new life will be a blessing beyond our knowing.

Mary’s situation was not a perfect one for bringing a child into the world. I have it on pretty good authority that she and Joseph had not yet funded this child’s college savings account, and historians tell us that terrorism reigned in their region then as now. And yet, when she received the news of this child to come, Mary was overwhelmed with thanks and joy as expressed in the words recorded in this scripture.

Mary’s joy was based on her hope for all that this baby would mean for the world. And we are witnesses to the fact that her hope is being fulfilled.

This world is a mess for sure, and yet God cares for this world beyond our understanding. God sent a baby to us as part of his plan to turn this

world upside down. He may have been crazy to make such an investment on our behalf: His only begotten Son in exchange for the likes of us!

And yet, it is that amazing grace of our most generous God that gives us the basis for hope. We can count on it. Despite the worst this world can dish out, God will have the last word for us, and that word is joy!

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, Thank you for giving us Jesus. Even in our difficulties, help us to believe in the hope that is ours because of your love for us. Through Christ, Amen.

*Claudia Quigg*

