

A NOTE TO PARENTS

"He that is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name."
Luke 1:49

Mary's triumphant song of praise speaks of a whole new world that God is making—one where God's humble servant is noticed, chosen, lifted up and given a great task to do with joy; one where the mighty are put down from their seats and the meek exalted; one where the hungry are filled with good things and the rich are sent away empty ... a world where God keeps his ancient promises. Elizabeth greets Mary in the certainty that God has begun to act: "When I heard your greeting, the babe in my womb leaped for joy ... blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what God spoke to her."

And then what happens? Think forward to Christmas, so close to us now, and to the days that follow. The baby is born, and the angels sing ... but he is born in a shed or a cave, in the dark, the damp, and the cold; the angels sing, but no one seems to hear them except a few bumpkins out on the hills; the rich and powerful, far from being toppled from their thrones, continue to occupy the places of power, including all the hotel rooms, and to threaten the helpless ... indeed, before long the family is fleeing for their lives, and terror and bloodshed come to Bethlehem ...

We need not expect Christmas to be perfect, when the power and joy of Christ's coming are expressed by our God in such hidden, such backhand ways. We need not expect our part in God's work, and God's plan, to be any clearer than Mary's was. It cannot have been easy for her to hold on to her song of triumph and joy, in the face of what came later—or in the face of the Cross. "Blessed is she who believed," and blessed are we when we continue to believe, and try to be faithful to our part in God's plan in spite of the big and little frustrations, and the big and little terrors, that this life serves up for us. As you and your child think about your own special part in God's work of love in the world, remember that the greatest gift God gives us is that faith and that strength.

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Year C
4th SUNDAY
in
ADVENT

*Mary said, "My soul sings praise to God,
because he has done great things
for me! From now on,
everyone will
call me
blessed."*

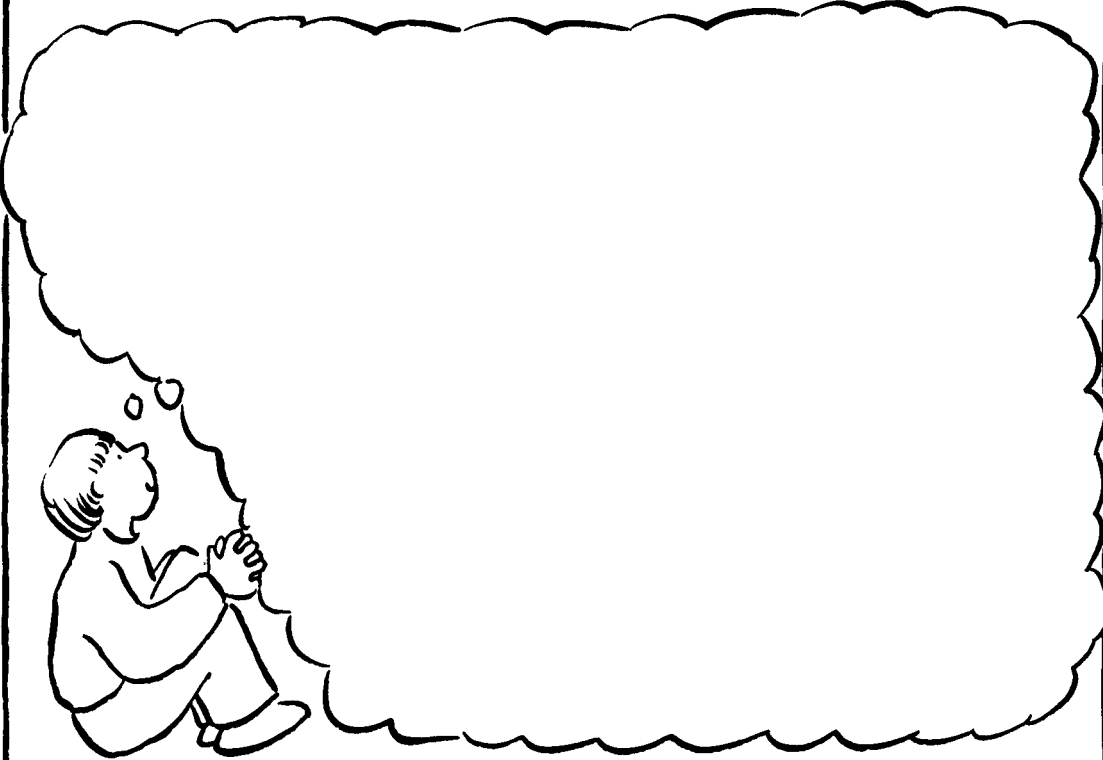
LUKE 1:46-48



GOD CHOSE MARY TO BE JESUS'S MOTHER.



Advent is a time to be happy and excited. We are excited because Christmas is almost here. Christmas means that God has come to live with us. God has already begun to do great things for us. We wait for him to finish his work, and we are happy that we have a part in God's plan to show his love and power.



This boy is thinking about his part in God's plan. What do you think that might be? Draw it!