



December 4-10, 2016

Text: *Luke 1:26-38*
ADVENT THEME: Advent Choices

1st Sunday of Advent: *Preparers or Preventers*

2nd Sunday of Advent: *Faith; not Fear*

SUMMARY OF SERMON: Mary's initial and understandable reaction to the angel Gabriel's appearance and words is fear. But Gabriel assures her of God's grace in calling her to bear the Messiah, God's Son. This responsibility, along with the unique form of conception, subject to misunderstanding, is a further recipe for fear. But Mary's response is faith.

RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK [The Bible readings this week are about overcoming fear through faith in the Lord.]

Monday, Dec. 5 – **Joshua 1:1-9** [Talk about a recipe for fear and anxiety – Joshua not only had to take over the leadership of a big group of people but he also needed to lead them into a heavily fortified land. But God calls him, and His people, to faith.]

Tuesday, Dec. 6 – **Hebrews 11** [This classic chapter on faith (note v.6) is a listing of OT heroes of faith. Reading through the list would make it clear that time and again these people were in very fearful situations but chose to trust the Lord.]

Wednesday, Dec. 7 – **Psalms 34** [This psalm contrasts two types of fear. We are to fear the Lord (e.g. v.7,9). Ironically, that healthy fear is the key to being delivered from all other fears (v.4).]

Thursday, Dec. 8 – **II Kings 6:8-23** [This passage helps illustrate the two levels of reality that are depicted in the Bible. There is the reality of the human stories – in this case very fearful for Elisha's servant (v.15). There is also the reality of the view from heaven – what God is doing. Elisha has faith in God and sees this. So he helps bring his servant from fear to faith.]

Friday, Dec. 9 – **John 13:31-14:4** [Right before His crucifixion Jesus is preparing His disciples for what they don't yet understand. They discern enough to be very fearful. So Jesus reassures them (14:1) and calls them to faith. He sees the heavenly reality that they can't yet understand but are to trust His word.]

Saturday, Dec. 10 – **Psalms 27** [Note the context of this psalm in vv.2-3. These are certainly very fearful elements. Yet the psalmist sets his trust upon the Lord and the Lord's blessed presence. Faith overcomes fear and the psalm ends with a peaceful waiting upon the Lord.]



December 4-10, 2016

Text: *Luke 1:26-38*
ADVENT THEME: Advent Choices

1st Sunday of Advent: *Preparers or Preventers*

2nd Sunday of Advent: *Faith; not Fear*

SUMMARY OF SERMON: Mary's initial and understandable reaction to the angel Gabriel's appearance and words is fear. But Gabriel assures her of God's grace in calling her to bear the Messiah, God's Son. This responsibility, along with the unique form of conception, subject to misunderstanding, is a further recipe for fear. But Mary's response is faith.

RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK [The Bible readings this week are about overcoming fear through faith in the Lord.]

Monday, Dec. 5 – **Joshua 1:1-9** [Talk about a recipe for fear and anxiety – Joshua not only had to take over the leadership of a big group of people but he also needed to lead them into a heavily fortified land. But God calls him, and His people, to faith.]

Tuesday, Dec. 6 – **Hebrews 11** [This classic chapter on faith (note v.6) is a listing of OT heroes of faith. Reading through the list would make it clear that time and again these people were in very fearful situations but chose to trust the Lord.]

Wednesday, Dec. 7 – **Psalms 34** [This psalm contrasts two types of fear. We are to fear the Lord (e.g. v.7,9). Ironically, that healthy fear is the key to being delivered from all other fears (v.4).]

Thursday, Dec. 8 – **II Kings 6:8-23** [This passage helps illustrate the two levels of reality that are depicted in the Bible. There is the reality of the human stories – in this case very fearful for Elisha's servant (v.15). There is also the reality of the view from heaven – what God is doing. Elisha has faith in God and sees this. So he helps bring his servant from fear to faith.]

Friday, Dec. 9 – **John 13:31-14:4** [Right before His crucifixion Jesus is preparing His disciples for what they don't yet understand. They discern enough to be very fearful. So Jesus reassures them (14:1) and calls them to faith. He sees the heavenly reality that they can't yet understand but are to trust His word.]

Saturday, Dec. 10 – **Psalms 27** [Note the context of this psalm in vv.2-3. These are certainly very fearful elements. Yet the psalmist sets his trust upon the Lord and the Lord's blessed presence. Faith overcomes fear and the psalm ends with a peaceful waiting upon the Lord.]

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYER FOR THE “LORD’S WATCH”

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

The “**Lord’s Watch**” is a growing commitment of South King County churches to pray together for revival, reconciliation, reformation, and reaching the lost. Participating churches choose a particular day each month to pray. Following is a loose outline to provide cohesiveness for each of us in praying the Lord’s Watch.

I. Rejoice/Adoration

[Use an appropriate scripture: e.g. Psalm 100, Ephesians 1:15-23]

II. Repentance/Confession

[Psalm 139:23-24, Isaiah 59:1-2]

III. Revival in the Church

[e.g. Psalm 85:6-9]

FTPC, Tukwila area churches, South King County, Seattle region

IV. Reconciliation

[e.g. II Corinthians 5:16-21]

Pray for unity between churches, and between Christians at work, in neighborhoods, schools, families, etc.

V. Reformation in Society

Pray for the infusion of God’s righteousness and justice to address the issues of crime, drugs, immorality, poverty, materialism, loss of sanctity of life, etc.

VI. Reaching the Lost

Pray for an awakening among those without Christ, including all ages, and all ethnic groups. Pray for a desire to seek Him who is “the way, the truth, and the life.” [John 14:6]

VII. Reflect

[Psalm 111:2] Think of the mighty works of God and of His promises to you, our congregation, the churches of South King County, and to our society. Let’s all freshly yield ourselves to seek God’s kingdom and His righteousness.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYER FOR THE “LORD’S WATCH”

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

The “**Lord’s Watch**” is a growing commitment of South King County churches to pray together for revival, reconciliation, reformation, and reaching the lost. Participating churches choose a particular day each month to pray. Following is a loose outline to provide cohesiveness for each of us in praying the Lord’s Watch.

I. Rejoice/Adoration

[Use an appropriate scripture: e.g. Psalm 100, Ephesians 1:15-23]

II. Repentance/Confession

[Psalm 139:23-24, Isaiah 59:1-2]

III. Revival in the Church

[e.g. Psalm 85:6-9]

FTPC, Tukwila area churches, South King County, Seattle region

IV. Reconciliation

[e.g. II Corinthians 5:16-21]

Pray for unity between churches, and between Christians at work, in neighborhoods, schools, families, etc.

V. Reformation in Society

Pray for the infusion of God’s righteousness and justice to address the issues of crime, drugs, immorality, poverty, materialism, loss of sanctity of life, etc.

VI. Reaching the Lost

Pray for an awakening among those without Christ, including all ages, and all ethnic groups. Pray for a desire to seek Him who is “the way, the truth, and the life.” [John 14:6]

VII. Reflect

[Psalm 111:2] Think of the mighty works of God and of His promises to you, our congregation, the churches of South King County, and to our society. Let’s all freshly yield ourselves to seek God’s kingdom and His righteousness.