



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

LUKE 1:26-33

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Favored one! And you have found favor with God...

What does it mean to find favor with God? It's a very good question, I imagine. And what does it mean to be called a favored one! I imagine for this young Palestinian girl, such a declaration was overwhelming. That is why the greeting perplexed her. It was a puzzling greeting for this young lady to be approached with such promise. And yet, more importantly it pleased God to send such a message. I love that in her, it pleased God to conceive and give birth to the Promised One! Someone from the margins of society would be found so highly favored and graced by God.

This is the hope of our Advent season, the Angel Voices, Again Now Sing of the favor of the Most High God and the coming of the Promised one... "And of his kingdom there will be no end."

Prayer:

May the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands! Psalm 90:17

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