

Advent Calendar: Day 4

The reflections for this week are centered around the readings for this Sunday's texts
Isaiah 7:10-14, 1 Timothy 3:16, Luke 1:26-38

Luke 1:36

“And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son;
and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.”

In Gabriel's admonition for Mary to visit Elizabeth, we are reminded that God not only blesses Mary with His incarnate presence in Jesus and His indwelling presence in the Spirit, but also with the mutual support and encouragement present with brothers and sisters in the faith. While much can be rightly said about Mary's response of faith and courage; it should be also noted that she was not left alone to navigate the implications and challenges of Jesus' indwelling. Her cousin Elizabeth, also a vessel of God's new work, was to be a refuge and encouragement for Mary, as Mary was to be for Elizabeth. Not unlike Mary and Elizabeth, God has also chosen us to willingly become vessels of His Spirit and new Life. The degree we seek each other out for strength, direction, and accountability is the degree to which we take advantage of God's gift of the family of faith. If such support was offered to and received by Mary, who are we to dismiss it from our lives.

In the midst of Covid-19, how can you continue to find/give strength and encouragement from/to brothers and sisters in the faith? What disciplines and practices can help you to share the encouragement of these devotionals to others within the circle of those God has placed in your life?