

Advent Calendar: Day 16

The reflections for this week are centered around the readings for this Sunday's texts
1 Samuel 2:1-10, Romans 12:9-16b, Luke 1:39-57

Luke 1:57a

And Mary remained with (Elizabeth) about three months
and then returned to her home."

We can only imagine what the three months of visitation were like for Mary and Elizabeth. In one way they could not be more different. Elizabeth was advanced in years, in a long established marriage and in the final trimester of her pregnancy. Mary was young, unmarried and a virgin, in the first months of pregnancy. Yet they were both so similar. They both were bearing the answer to years of prayer; in one case from a barren couple, in the other from a barren people longing for their Messiah. Each were experiencing the miraculous and unexpected work of God in their lives, bringing about new life both in the children they bore and in the spiritual life those children would prosper. In the midst of God's call to them, both knew joy, excitement, wonder, gratitude and perhaps occasionally a little uncertainty. Our faithful response to God's call will bind us together with unexpected people who will both support and stretch us in the faith. In the midst of that newly formed family of faith, Jesus will grow, the longing prayers of our hearts will be filled and the gifts of new life will break upon us to bless and save.

Who are some of the people God has placed in your life that have supported you in the faith? Often our visits and conversations with others fail to get much deeper than the weather forecast, score of last night's game, and a review of the front page news. Consider how you might be open to share and hear how God is moving in your lives. Let the common life and love of Christ bind you in unexpected relationships that prosper God's work and invite His love, joy, peace, hope and fellowship.