



Advent Week 4 (December 19)

Trust In The Mystery

Read: Luke 1: 26-38

Light: Four Advent Candles

Think about a time you've been in a situation that just didn't make sense. Maybe it was learning hard and unexpected news. Or the time you did everything right and things still didn't work out. Maybe a long-held belief was suddenly challenged, and you had to ask some difficult questions.

Living a life that trusts and follows God takes work most of the time, but especially when we encounter the unexpected. When things don't go according to plan, we can find ourselves overwhelmed with doubt. We can get into survival mode and have a defensive posture towards the world around us. It can be difficult to remain curious when you're just trying to figure out which way is up!

Mary's response to the angel's news that she will give birth to Jesus provides a helpful example of how to sit in the tension of feeling both uncertainty about the future and desiring to trust God. The news she receives is not easy to accept, this does not fit the script of how her life was supposed to go. People will talk, likely judge, and there are so many unanswered questions in front of her. But Mary doesn't have to understand all the details of what is going to come next; she simply must be willing to trust that God will be faithful even in the middle of a great mystery.

This week, reflect on when you have found yourself walking with God through a season of uncertainty.

- How would you have reacted if you were in Mary's situation?
- When have you had to trust God in the middle of a mystery?
- How have you experienced assurance of God's faithfulness when going through an unexpected time?

Pray: Thank you, God, for the mystery of Your work. May we trust you even when we're uncertain and are struggling in the waiting. Let us be like Mary, willing to remain faithful even in our most difficult times.