

Advent Devotional



Love

Written by Rev. Veronica Cannon
Luke 1:26-38

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.

The best gift one can receive, in my estimation, is an unexpected gift that's thoughtful and given out of love. One Christmas, my husband and I gave our children gifts of love. Cell phones. School shootings were beginning to happen. Out of love for them, and a desire for safety, they were given phones to use in case of emergencies, so we could be contacted if necessary and get to them when we could. They rejoiced that they had cell phones. That's all that mattered to them.

Mary received the greatest gift of love ever. God was with her and found favor with her and chose her to bear the Savior to the world. How unexpected. She did not understand why the Lord chose her. She didn't fully understand how she would be used in this way. But she rejoiced in this gift of love. That's all that mattered to her. Her gift became the gift of love for all of us. Jesus is the gift of love that keeps on giving.

Reflection

God gave us a gift of love. How do you share this gift with others?

Prayer

Jesus, thank you. You protect and draw us close into a loving relationship with the Almighty. Because of your love for us, we need not fear anything. You're the unexpected gift of love we joyfully receive. Amen.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. - John 3:16

