

December 20, 2020

Advent 4 | Visit from an Angel

Getting Ready

Good morning boys and girls, and welcome to Children's Chapel. I am glad that you are here and that we are together with Jesus.

As we get ourselves ready for this time together, let us sit quietly in our sacred spaces and light our candles.

First, we light the Christ candle and as we light it, let us remember that Jesus is the light of the world and that God sent Jesus to teach us all about God and how much God loves us. Next, we light the three smaller candles that represent all of us here as we sit at the feet of Jesus.

In my sacred space, I also have a cross that reminds me that Jesus died for us so that we can experience life with God forever. I also have 3 prayer rocks here that help me to focus on my time with Jesus.

And now that we are ready, we can begin today's teaching.

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Theme

The angel Gabriel tells Mary about the birth of Jesus.

Object

An Angel Christmas Tree Topper

Scripture

Luke 1:30-32

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name 'Jesus.' He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

Teaching

What do you put at the very top of your Christmas tree? Some people put a star at the top of their tree. That's a good choice. After all, a special star played a very important part in the story of Christmas. Some families put a Santa Claus on the top – and that's always fun and reminds us of the generosity of Christmas. Some people like to put an angel at the top of their tree. That's a good choice too, because angels also played a very important role in the Christmas story.

As you probably know, angels are messengers from God. Today, I want to tell you about a very important angel by the name of Gabriel. Luke's Gospel tell us that the angel Gabriel was sent by God to deliver a message to a young woman named Mary who was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph.

The angel appeared to Mary and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

Mary was frightened and confused by the angel's greeting. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her. "You have found favor with God. You will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus."

Mary asked the angel. "How can this happen? I am only a young girl."

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. The baby will be holy and he will be called the Son of God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary replied, "let everything happen just as you have said."

God could have chosen anyone to give birth to Jesus, but he chose Mary, a young girl living in the little village of Nazareth. She didn't seem very important by the world's standards – she was just a young, normal girl. But she was very important to God, and he chose her to do the most important thing one could imagine -- he chose her to give birth to his Son. God still chooses everyday, normal people to help God in his important work in this world. Like me and you! He has given us the task of sharing the good news of Jesus and his love to the whole world, in our words and in our actions. "Go and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19) Can you imagine a more important job? This

year, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us, like Mary, answer God's call. "I am the Lord's servant, Let it be with me just as you have said."

Prayer

Dear Father, we thank you for this story about how you sent the angel Gabriel to take your message to Mary. We thank you that she was brave enough to say "yes." We also thank you that you have given us the task of taking the message of Jesus and his love to all the world. Help us to say "yes" to you every day. Amen.

Closing

In the name of the Father, son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

What was Mary's response to the angel when she was told that she was going to have God's son?

Look up Luke 1:38