

An aerial photograph of Prague, Czech Republic, taken during the golden hour of sunset. The Vltava River flows through the center of the city, with the Charles Bridge spanning across it. The city's architecture is a mix of historic and modern buildings, with many featuring red-tiled roofs. A prominent green dome is visible on the left side. The sky is filled with soft, golden light, and the water reflects the colors of the setting sun.

WELCOME
to the
International Baptist Church
of Prague

SUNDAY 20
DECEMBER 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

JOY





“Mary” from Luke 1:26-38

GABRIEL – THE SPECIAL AGENT

The Messenger

1:28-29: The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.”

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.



GABRIEL – THE SPECIAL AGENT

The Message

1:30-32: But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour 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.”



1:35: The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”

MARY – THE SPECIAL WOMAN - 4 Myths

‘Immaculate Conception’ - 1854 by Pope Pius IX

Luke 1:46-47: ‘My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.’

‘Assumption’ - 1950 by Pope Pius XII

‘Mediatrix’ - 1891 by Pope Leo XIII

1 Timothy 2:5: For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus...

‘Perpetual Virginity’ - 1950 by Pope Pius XII

Mark 6:3: ‘Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?’

MARY – THE SPECIAL WOMAN - 4 Truths

She was chosen by the Lord - 1:26

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.



She served the Lord - 1:38

“I am the Lord's servant,”

Mary answered.

“May it be to me as you have said.”

MARY – THE SPECIAL WOMAN - 4 Truths

She was blessed by the Lord - 1:42

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!”



She had faith in the Lord - 1:46:

“My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.”

Luke 1:39-46 “Mary & Elizabeth”

1 ³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!’

ELIZABETH – THE SPECIAL SUPPORT

She was a witness to impossibility - 1:36-37

“...she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month.
For nothing is impossible with God.”



She was a witness to identity - 1:43

“But why am I so favoured,
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

LUKE 1:26-56: "MARY"

She was chosen by the Lord - 1:26

... God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin... The virgin's name was Mary.

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"I am the Lord's servant, Mary answered. May it be to me as you have said."

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"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!"

She had faith in the Lord - 1:46

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour."

To
God
be the Glory!