

## Going deeper with Mary



This painting is in the National Gallery and was made in the mid C15th. It was part of the decoration of the Palazzo Medici in Florence, and likely placed above a door or a bed. Mary is receiving the news from the angel Gabriel that she is to have a child. Not yet being married and being very young, you might have expected her to have been terrified but Luke records her response to the news as “Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word”. (Luke 1 26 to 38).

Those months of pregnancy can't have been easy for her, the shame of being pregnant and not yet married, having to tell Joseph and her parents, perhaps that's why she goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is also expecting.

It's during that visit we hear Mary's Song of Praise, the Magnificat, which begins,

*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,*

*For he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.*

*Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed;*

*For the Mighty One has done great things for me , and holy is his name.*

See Luke 1:46 – 56 for the complete version.

Interestingly Luke doesn't record and more words from Mary as the baby is born or during the various visits but we are told “Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart”. Perhaps her joy meant that she didn't need words.

*Ponderings:*

*Can we also have that sense of joy as we celebrate Christmas?*

*Do we know people for whom Christmas is not a time of joy? Do we pray for them?*

*What gives you joy?*

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