

From the Clergy Assistant  
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*“My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.”* Luke 1:46-47

Advent is a time of preparation and reflection in expectation for the coming of Christ into the world. For me, Mary has always served as a strong role model and very real figure of Advent in her agreement to humbly serve as the mother of Christ, birthing him into the world, and in her recognition of the magnitude of this event. One of my favorite windows in at St. Elizabeth’s is the spectacular window in the sacristy depicting Mary’s visit to her cousin Elizabeth; it was during this visit that Mary rejoices in the beautiful verses which we know as The Song of Mary, the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). I love saying the Magnificat during weekday Morning Prayer, and especially singing it during Sunday Morning Prayer. *“My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. ...He hath shown strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts... He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel...”* Mary undoubtedly did her own preparation and deep reflection in her months of pregnancy and expectation of the birth of Christ.

*“...and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”* Luke 2:35

Mary has also served as a strong role model for me of what it means to be a disciple of Christ; from her acceptance of how God has called her to serve, through her mundane, day-to-day care and mothering of Jesus as a child and her support of his ministry and mission; *in her love for her son*. When Mary and Joseph first brought the infant Jesus to the temple, Simeon took the infant into his arms and proclaimed that he had finally seen God’s salvation, Jesus; and turning to Mary, Simeon said: *“...and a sword will pierce your own soul too”*... (Luke 2:35). Mary bore the pains of a mother watching her son go through great trials and eventually condemnation and execution—unjustly. She was present with him at the foot of the cross, but also present with the other disciples in the new life and ministry of his resurrection. May we be so present to Christ in our own lives.

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The Rev. Joan F. Conley