

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 4, 2022

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow!

Christmas with the Spirituals

“Children, Go Where I Send Thee”

Scripture: St. Luke 1:26-38 (English Standard Version)

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He 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 father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

~ SERMON NOTES ~

The angel Gabriel challenged Mary to go forward, trusting God, and not to be afraid of what the future may hold!

In the same way, God challenges us as His children to go where He sends us, and to open our hearts to these powerful possibilities:

1. Believe the _____.

Open your spiritual eyes and see the Christ Child. Experience his love, know his forgiveness, and accept his grace.

2. Embrace the _____.

Worship is the full commitment of one's heart to God in a life of service. “Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord the newborn King.”

3. Accept the _____.

Children, go where I send thee into the highways of life to serve and to share He who is the promised Messiah!

