

## NEW WORDS FOR OLD

### LUKE 1 26-30

My text and starting point is Luke 1 .38 “Here I am” said Mary. “I am the Lord’s servant; as you have spoken, so be it”

The Gospel reading is part of Luke’s detailed and thorough account of how the Christ came into what we call “time”.

He tells how it began when the Angel Gabriel tells a seemingly unimportant young girl that something beyond her comprehension is going to happen her

The young girl willingly with no “Ifs or Buts” says “Yes” to playing her part in bringing the Christ and the Kingdom he was to speak and preach of into what we call “time”.

She has the courage to say “Yes” to the Angel even though she has no knowledge of what will happen to her Son and to the Kingdom he is to teach of and live out

And her positive response points to this theme that runs all the way through Luke’s Gospel- namely that our faith journeys only really come to life when someone positively responds to it

So at this point I have some homework for you, Read through Luke’s Gospel and find other examples of Luke telling us of others who positively responded to Christ

Luke’s Gospel tells us that this challenge is now in our hands so that we can continue to give birth to our faith journey even in the midst of a global pandemic

So how are we to meet this challenge?

Well part of Christian teachings are “The Beatitudes”.

We find them Chapters 5-7 of Matthew’s Gospel but some are also found in Luke’s Gospel in Chapter 6.20- 49. They often begin with the words “Blessed (Happy) are those who.....”

So perhaps to better tell our story today, we need some Beatitudes for our time. So here are some by Helen Renou

*Blessed are you when you remain available sharing in simplicity what you possess*

*Blessed are you when you weep over the absence of happiness around you and throughout the world*

*Blessed are you when you opt for gentleness and dialogue even when this seems long and difficult*

*Blessed are you when you creatively devise new ways of donating your time, your tenderness and gems of hope*

*Blessed are you when you listen with your heart to detect what is gift in others*

*Blessed are you when you strive to take the first step, the necessary one to attain peace with brothers and sisters throughout the world*

*Blessed are you when you keep in your heart wonderment, openness and free questioning of life*

*Blessed are you when you take seriously your faith in the Risen Christ*

Mary began the process getting our story noticed by saying “Yes” to the Angel and so playing her part in giving birth to our faith journey.

We today are to continue the work of giving birth to our story and Helen Renou would tell us that we are to find new ways and words to do this. You could say that for us it is a case of finding and using new ways and words for old.

If we don't do this, then we are missing our chance of getting our story noticed today.

And to help us do this, here is a Seasonal Meditation by David Adam

*I open the stable door*

*I kneel before the infant*

*I worship with the shepherds*

*I adore the Christ Child*

*I ponder the Word made flesh*

*I absorb the love of God*

*I give glory with the Angels*

*I offer my gifts with the Magi*

*I have come from lands afar*

*I receive the living Lord*

*I hold him in my hands*

*I go on my way rejoicing*

*Glorifying and praising God*

Not too surprisingly the Meditation is called “ Every Church is Bethlehem”

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