



## Wednesday Prayer

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Trust, Love and Courage

***“And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”***  
***Luke 1:45***

This week, we revisit the story of Mary traveling to visit her cousin Elizabeth (*with haste*) to share the news of her pregnancy. The story is familiar to us, but by this time of the month, I must admit, I'm more focused on last minute gifts, weather forecasts and calendar overload. And yet, as I studied the gospel for the week, I was reminded that there are important lessons we can learn from Mary and Elizabeth, lessons of remarkable trust, love and courage.

Mary and Elizabeth trusted the paths that God had laid out for them. Elizabeth, despite being unable to conceive due to her age, remained faithful to the Lord. She and her husband, Zacharias, trusted God even though their lives had not unfolded as they might have hoped. Mary, too, trusted in God's plan as she faced an unexpected and miraculous pregnancy.

Mary and Elizabeth exemplified love and support for each other during their trials. Mary rushed to visit Elizabeth as soon as she learned of her cousin's pregnancy, knowing that Elizabeth, due to her age, might need help and support. And Elizabeth was blessed with a witness from the Holy Spirit that Mary carried the Son of God. Her words of affirmation and support strengthened Mary's faith ~ *“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”*

And both women exhibited remarkable courage. Elizabeth boldly stood up and proclaimed her son's name, John, despite societal expectations, because she knew it was God's will. Mary displayed immense courage when she faced the real possibility of being shunned for her pregnancy. She showed courage in trusting God's plan, even when it seemed difficult and unconventional.

So as we move from Advent to Christmas, and reflect on the work of Cherish All Children, I invite you to trust that God is working through ordinary people to protect vulnerable children. Trust that we can provide love and support for leaders and children through our prayers and that we continue to demonstrate courage, believing that our efforts are making a difference in the lives of God's beloved children.

**Loving God, we ask that like Mary and Elizabeth, we continue to trust in your promises and demonstrate love and support to the most vulnerable. Help us to be courageous in fighting for justice and showing compassion to all. May we become a community that supports one another as we hope and wait. Amen.**

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