

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020

“SO THIS IS LOVE PART 4”

By Rev. Joanna Dietz

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. ~ Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)*

If I had been Mary I would have had a lot more questions. We say that nothing is impossible with God, but I wonder if we believe that as willingly as the scriptures say Mary did. I remember when I was younger and felt the call to go to seminary. My boys were 2 and 5 years old. I was working here at Vale part time as the Children's Music Director and part time as a Music Educator in Fairfax County. And somehow, I managed to make it through 5 years of seminary. I look back on those days and wonder how in the world I did it. The only answer I can come up with is God and my husband. It was exhausting juggling all those pieces!

Nothing is impossible with God. Old women and virgins can have babies. God can come to earth in human form. Death is overcome by resurrection. Nothing is impossible with God. I wonder what other seemingly impossible things we can accomplish when we stop saying no and start saying yes to God.

Prayer: Dear God, help me to believe that I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. Amen.

*Thought for the Day: Is there a task God is asking me to accomplish that takes me beyond my comfort zone?*