

Welcome to Advent—2017. We are 15 days away from Christmas. How can these days be filled with worship, highlighted with service and a demonstration of love? I think today will help us move in this direction.

### Luke 1:26-38, 46-49

#### \* **Mind - she thoughtfully responds**

“perplexed and pondered” (v.29 NASB) means, to make an audit

According to Martin Luther, the greatest miracle of the first Christmas was Mary believed

#### \* **Will - she responds in surrender**

“Here am I, the servant of the Lord.” (v.38, NRSV) means, Behold!

✓ Are you willing to obey anything the Bible says to do, whether you like it or not?

✓ Are you willing to trust God in everything he sends into your life, whether you understand it or not?

#### \* **Emotions - she responds with praise**

Her mind is convinced; her will is surrendered; and her emotions overflow.

“My soul glorifies . . . my spirit rejoices . . .” (vv. 46 & 47)

#### **Reflective Questions:**

- 1) What is your favorite thing about Christmas?
- 2) What might you say about Mary? Why do you think God chose her?
- 3) How might you follow Mary's response to God? Why are the mind, the will and the emotions important to our faith? How do you plan to apply Mary's example to your life?



## Christmas Eve Sunday gatherings Sunday, December 24th, 10 am or 5pm

Children's Ministry is available for Nursery—Kindergarten both in the morning and the evening as we worship as a church family.



#### **ADVENT CONSPIRACY**

Trade in a Christmas of consumption for a more meaningful celebration. With your help, we plan to bring fresh water to a village in Kenya. Our goal is \$5,000 to help 100 families have fresh water for the next 10 years. In the first week, we received \$1,470 towards this goal. Please write “Advent Conspiracy” on the memo line of your check if you want to participate.

