

# Unfolding the Word

## Opening Prayer

On the road to Emmaus, the disciples said,  
'were not our hearts burning within us as he  
opened the scriptures to us'.

Lord,  
Open our minds to your gospel message,  
Help us to listen to it more attentively,  
Help us to understand it more clearly  
Help us to live it more faithfully.  
Amen



Text: Luke 1: 26-38

## Luke 1:26-45

### The Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin 's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you. ' \* <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. ' <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin? ' \* <sup>35</sup>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.

<sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God. ' <sup>38</sup>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.

### Questions to consider

1. What was the message of the angel?
2. What was Mary 's response to the angel 's message? How did she feel? Did she understand what was happening?
3. What does the event mean for us today?
4. How is Mary 's response an example for us as followers of Jesus?