

**In the Morning Wednesday, September 8, 2021**  
**The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, September 8**

**Welcome**

**Opening Prayer**

Father in heaven, by your grace the virgin mother of your incarnate Son was blessed in bearing him, but still more blessed in keeping your word: Grant us who honor the exaltation of her lowliness to follow the example of her devotion to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Dwelling in the Word: Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

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, favoured 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 favour 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 for ever, 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.

As you hear the passage being read, what word or phrase is God calling you to notice?

As you hear the passage read a second time, what might God be calling you to try on at this time?

Following your silent meditation after the second reading, please type your word or phrase into the Chat if you would like to share it. The officiant will invite all of us into a quiet time for a few minutes to prayerfully read and reflect on the words offered in the Chat.

The officiant will end this time of silent prayer with The Lord's Prayer.

**The Lord's Prayer**

*(Spanish - The Rev. Steven Klots, Chaplain, The South Kent School;*

*French - The Rev. Mary Barnett, Priest in Charge, Holy Trinity Church, Middletown)*

## **Zoom Call**

At end of zoom call

## **Closing Prayer**

Oh Lord, who came into the world to bear witness to the truth and who said that the good and faithful teacher should be greatly accounting of in your kingdom: Send, we pray, your blessing upon all who are engaged in the work of education. Give them clearness vision and freshness of thought, and enable them to train the hearts and minds of their students so that they may fill their appointed places in the work of this life, and be ready for service in the life to come. Amen

*School Chapel, Services and Prayers, Service for the Opening of the School Year, Church Publishing, 2007. (Slightly modified) p. 15*

## **Blessing**

### **The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

The gospels tell us little about the family and home of our Lord's mother. She is thought to have been of Davidic descent and to have been brought up in a devout Jewish family that cherished the hope of Israel for the coming kingdom of God, in remembrance of the promise to Abraham and the forefathers.

In the second century, a devout Christian sought to supply a fuller account of Mary's birth and family, to satisfy the interest and curiosity of believers. An apocryphal gospel, known as the Protevangelium of James or The Nativity of Mary, appeared. It included legendary stories of Mary's parents Joachim and Anne. These stories were built out of Old Testament narratives of the births of Isaac and of Samuel (whose mother's name, Hannah, is the original form of Anne), and from traditions of the birth of John the Baptist. In these stories, Joachim and Anne—the childless, elderly couple who grieved that they would have no posterity—were rewarded with the birth of a girl, whom they dedicated in infancy to the service of God under the tutelage of the temple priests.

Many provinces of the Anglican Communion celebrate September 8th rather than August 15th as their primary Marian feast.

Although we do not know the truth of Mary's parentage or birth, we nevertheless rejoice for those who brought her into this world, and who raised her in such a way that even as a young woman she was able to give a courageous "yes" in response to her call from God.

*Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2018*

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