



Fourth Sunday of Advent
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Pastor's Column

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She Was Just a Girl

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, I share this meditation on Mary written by Rev. Donna Schaper. It is entitled, "She Was Just a Girl."

Such a season. Such a time. So much joy. So much persistent sorrow. Almighty Creator God, origin of the species, this time You have gone too far. She is just a girl. This Mary of Yours.

And You have trusted her with way too much—the burden of history, the hope of salvation a girl is to carry joy to the world. Our best chance for world peace. Have You lost Your mind?

Yes, You sent a rainbow to give us another chance the last time. We saw the dove with the branch in its mouth. And yes, we read Torah, learned the Psalms, laughed with Anna and Zechariah at John's uncanny birth. We heard John's wilderness cry. We know You were up to something. You always are. But a girl? Just a girl?

To this elegant universe, with its quarks and its jaguars, its lynxes and its olive trees, its 10 or 11 dimensions, its wriggling strings, its deep black holes, and membranes, where waves act as particles and particles as waves, where only the seers and sages write books with titles like "The Universe in a Nutshell," You have sent Your Son by means of a girl? What are you thinking about?

Are we too meant to carry salvation, feed the children, cure cancer, bear history, open minds, redeem Your world? Have You really looked at us lately?

You're not kidding, are You? We, the ones with no rest for the weary, we who confuse riches with wealth, knowledge with wisdom, defense for security, we are to carry Your creation forward with You! You originated our species for partnership with You! You really weren't kidding, were You? —Amen.

In these last days of Advent, let us take time in our prayer to reflect on Mary, the model of the Church. For redemption to take place, Mary had to freely choose to say "Yes" and to partner with God.

In the same way, God needs our "Yes," freely given, for God's saving action to continue for this time and this place.

May our celebration of Advent bear fruit. May we once again give our "Yes" to God and become God's handmaid, as Mary did.

F. Mike