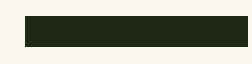
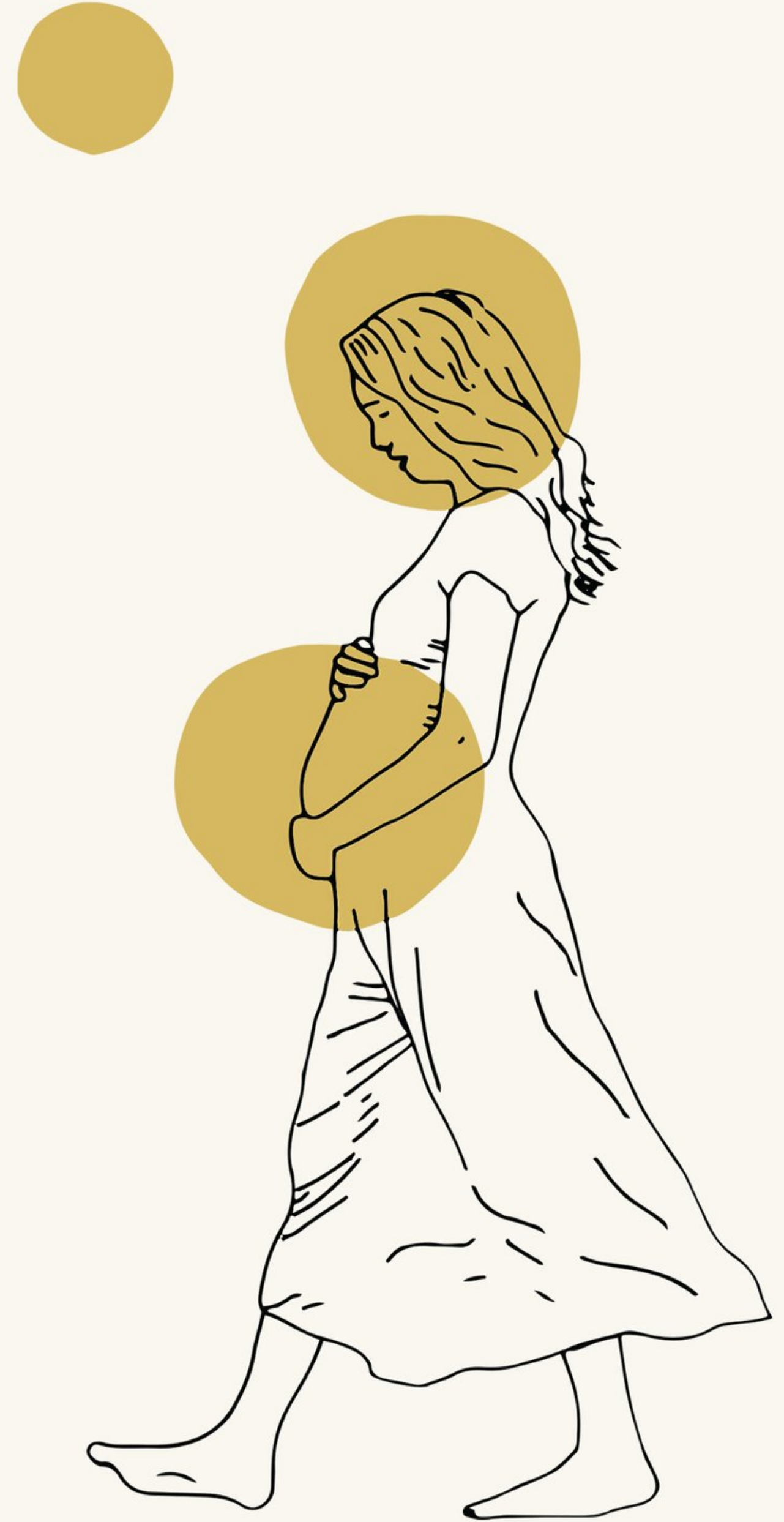


Advent 2024



# Honest Advent

*God With Us Then,  
Here, and Now*



# ***Theotokos***





**Mary is an example of what it means  
to participate in incarnation as  
*theotokos* – God-bearer.**



# **Luke 1:26-38**

(Pg. 714)





*The Annunciation*, by Henry Ossawa Tanner (1898)





*Song: Ad Libre*  
*By Alexandra Stréliski*



# **Luke 1:26-38**

(Pg. 714)



**“In addition to inviting us to think about who we are and what we do in relation to God and God’s work, this passage challenges us to be reoriented by what the incarnation tells us about the character of God.”**

**Cynthia L. Rigby**



# Incarnation



# **Incarnation**

*“Embodying Christ”*



**“Mary acts as creative partner and agent with God in the coming of the Christ child.”**

**Cynthia L. Rigby**



**SPECIFIC  
SUPPORTIVE  
SPIRIT-EMPOWERED**



**SPECIFIC  
SUPPORTIVE  
SPIRIT-EMPOWERED**

*-or-*

*PARTICULAR  
PROMOTING  
PNEUMATIC*



**SPECIFIC**





- **At a particular time**

*“in the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy”*



- **At a particular time**

*“in the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy”*

- **In a particular place**

*“Nazareth, a town in Galilee”*



Search this area



# Nazareth

מלון רמדה נצרת

Pizza Hut  
Casual pizza chain  
with wide selection

Church of the  
Annunciation

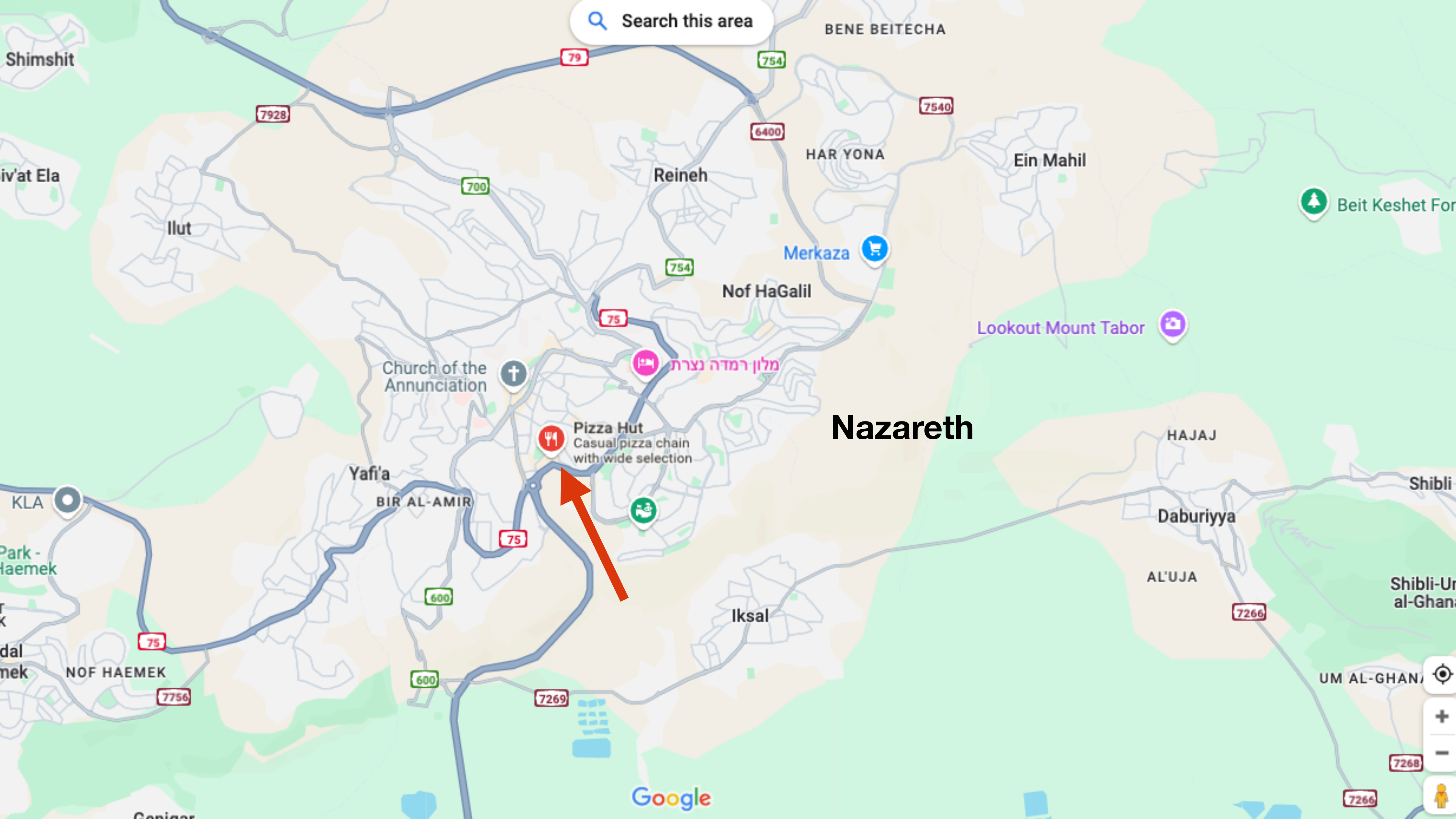
Lookout Mount Tabor

Beit Keshet For

Shibli-Ur  
al-Ghan

UM AL-GHAN

Search this area



# Nazareth

Pizza Hut  
Casual pizza chain  
with wide selection

מלון רמדה נצרת

Church of the  
Annunciation

Yafi'a

BIR AL-AMIR

Iksal

HAJAJ

Daburiyya

AL'UJA

UM AL-GHANAJIR

Search this area

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6400

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iv'at Ela

Reineh

HAR YONA

Ein Mahil

Ilut



Beit Keshet For

Merkaza

754

Nof HaGalil

75

Lookout Mount Tabor



Church of the Annunciation



מלון רמדה נצרת

Nazareth



Pizza Hut  
Casual pizza chain with wide selection

Yafi'a

BIR AL-AMIR

75

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Daburiyya

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Shibli-Ur al-Ghan

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UM AL-GHAN

7268

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600

7269

Google

7266

Geniger



- **At a particular time**

*“in the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy”*

- **In a particular place**

*“Nazareth, a town in Galilee”*

- **To a particular woman**

*“A virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph”*



***“scandal of particularity”***



# SUPPORTIVE





**The angel went to her and said,  
“Greetings, you who are highly favoured!  
The Lord is with you.”**

**Luke 1:28**



# SPIRIT-EMPOWERED



**The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.”**

**Luke 1:35-36**





# Mary's Response



**“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.**

**Luke 1:38**



**“Mary’s assignment from God is an honour yoked with struggle.”**

**Ashley Cook Cleere**







**“But when you say to the Giver of life, ‘I want my life to be meaningful. I want to serve You with my life. May it be so according to what You desire,’ you have no idea what secret cosmic strategies have been put into play to answer that request.”**

**Scott Erickson (*Honest Advent*, pg. 55)**



**Access**

**takes the waiting  
out of wanting**

# Feeling the wait



# ***“The pain paradox”***



**“Our natural instinct is to escape pain, but the problem is healing, freedom, transformation, are on the other side of pain.”**

**Dr. Fleet Maul**



# PARTICIPATION



**“May the unease of your stretching and expanding be the promise of divine love growing in you a new life of unforeseen possibility.”**

Scott Erickson (*Honest Advent*, pg. 57)



**What is your response to the possibility of incarnation happening in and through you?**





**Like Mary, our invitation to participate in  
incarnation is:**

**SPECIFIC  
SUPPORTIVE  
SPIRIT-EMPOWERED**



**“We must listen to what is supporting us.  
We must listen to what is encouraging us.  
We must listen to what is urging us. We  
must listen to what is alive in us... We must  
learn how to recognize the positive flow  
and to distinguish it from the negative  
resistance within ourselves.”**

**Richard Rohr**



**Like Mary, our invitation to participate in incarnation is: specific, supportive and Spirit-empowered.**



# Prayer: *Be Born in Us*

*Iona Community*



**Here is a place for you, Lord Jesus.  
Make our hearts ready  
to love and to welcome you.**

**Be born again,  
not in a manger, but in us.  
Make us your Bethlehem,  
where God is personal  
and all things and all people  
are made new. Amen.**

