

Mary's Prayer

Heavenly Father,

I have no words to describe how I feel, for what has happened is beyond my understanding. One moment, I perceived myself one way – and then, after your angel Gabriel spoke, I knew nothing would ever be the same again.

Nothing.

I was troubled.

I was afraid.

I was confused.

I should have run.

But the words of an angel have a way of holding a person still.

As Gabriel spoke, something happened. It started slow – filling me with warmth. It reached my heart, and slowed the beats down. I breathed out, slowly, and drank in a sense of peace.

For in those first few moments, I had felt the weight of impossibility. I cannot be with child. I cannot bear the Saviour we have been waiting for, the one whose kingdom will never end. I cannot be entrusted with this wonderful gift.

However, Gabriel's presence and words ushered in a sense of peace, into the very heart of me, nestling next to the child I would bear. Instead of imagining the scenarios of rejection and scorn, I believe now in the impossible scenario of hope and acceptance.

I am as shocked as anyone by the news that I carry this child, this Jesus. But I am at peace, a peace that is not my own and not dependent on my situation or my response.

I am blessed.

I am chosen.

I can move forward now, embraced by peace. Surrounded by peace. With this child of miraculous peace growing inside me, every flutter of my heart, every new sensation, will remind me that I am protected, surrounded and loved.

May this peace last, Father. No matter what may come.