



From Our Vicar

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A Longing Fulfilled

There had been 400 years of silence of the Word of God. The people were oppressed and poor and longing for a visitation from God to give them reassurance, deliverance and hope.

The last Hebrew prophet had been Malachi who had said, “See, I will send my messenger who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.’

No wonder there is such a sense of excitement in the early chapters of Luke as first Zechariah, then Mary receives a visit from the angel Gabriel foretelling of very special and miraculous births.

They both responded with songs of spontaneous praise that are recorded in the scripture and feature in the prayer book.

Our hearts lift when we witness the beginning of a reversal of fortunes: when rain clouds gather after a drought; when exams are finally completed after a stressful period of study; when health returns, when persistent apparently fruitless efforts begin to reap their reward.

Luke’s gospel is the place to go to for the most intimate of these expressions of longing fulfilled. There are rapturous expressions of joy, as God fulfils his promise to his people in the coming of Jesus. Those who have faithfully waited have their hearts, eyes and mouths opened to receive and rejoice in this wonder. *

* Elizabeth (Lk 1:39-45); Mary (38, 46-55); Zechariah (1:5-25,57-80); Simeon (2:25-35) and Anna (2:36-38)

As you read and ponder and consider the longings in your own life, can you detect wisps of hope, hints of a turning in your situation, small as they may seem. (See 1 Kings 18:41-46)

Begin with thanksgiving and dare to believe that God is at work. Then take heart and move forward expectantly in whatever God has given you to do. Remember Immanuel – ‘God is with us’ – the God who will bring to completion that which he has begun in you and through you.

To God be the glory, both now and forever!

God bless you, *Wayne*