

A Christmas Blessing.

Luke 1:26-38

Advertising offering us the world – free holiday, cheap electricity, cheap double glazing, huge savings, massive sale. I'm suspicious – are you suspicious? *If it sounds too good to be true, then it probably is.* If it's religious, then we're really suspicious aren't we?

"Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!"

Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant.

But God had decided to bless Mary – why? Because God is gracious.

But why to her? Was from a family of promise/prophecy – so people could recognise where the Messiah was coming from.

God wasn't wanting to be gracious just to Mary or her family – but in sending His Son into the world, He wanted to be gracious to everybody because He loves each one of us personally.

16 "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

The message of the angel was "*Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!*"

Mary's response was: "*I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said."*"

God's message to each of us tonight is: "*Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!"*

You're blessed with an opportunity to know God – what's your response?

Happy Christmas and Blessed New Year!

*Preached by Mark Reid 10/12/09
Collimer Court Carol Singing
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26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. 27 He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. 28 The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!" 29 Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. 30 The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. 31 You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, 33 and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!" 34 Mary said to the angel, "I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?" 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. 36 Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. 37 For there is nothing that God cannot do." 38 "I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her.