

“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” Luke 2:19 NIV

[lectio] // LUKE 2:1-14

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

[meditatio]

reflect on – what word, words, phrase, or sentence speaks to you from the text, then write them down

So many things had happened since Mary received a personal announcement from an arch Angel, Gabriel. (Arch angels only show up to announce or wipe things out.) Then she visits aunty Elizabeth and discovers her aunt is pregnant in her old age and Elizabeth KNEW Mary was pregnant, even though she wasn't showing. Then there's telling Joseph, and her parents, then the government just goes and "edicts" this massive tax plan that disrupts everyone's life. Then, they are not in their home-town-environment where everything was predictable and comfortable and safe. They deliver the baby in a massively famous city crowded with Jews from all over the known world. The shepherds and sages show up (Luke doesn't mention them) and Mary is left to make sense out of it all, and to somehow put it in order. Treasured and pondered? I'll bet!

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Yesterday (i'm writing this on Dec 26th), I had our family recite Mary's amazing activities since the Angel gave her the news. Much of her life was in turmoil for the nine months she carried the Christ child. Then we highlighted the fact that Mary treasured and pondered after the shepherds left. I asked our family, "What did you treasure in 2018 and what are you pondering for 2019." It was very quiet for awhile and we just sat unusually quiet. Then a few people shared their pain from 2018. It was a "treasure" mixed with blessings and pain. A parallel of joy and sadness. We talked about owning sadness. Fran said, "I think people should be okay with sadness and being able to talk about being sad." It was good. It was very different than any Christmas mornings we've had in the past. I was thinking "highlights" but many were feeling a mixture of joy WITH incredible sadness.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root