

## Advent 4 Perseverance Micah 5:2-5 Luke 1:39-45

### Recap

4 P's for Advent  
Promise  
Preparation  
Proclamation / Praise  
Perseverance

### Perseverance on a journey

Tim Peake - 6 years preparation to get him to the International Space Station  
then manual not auto docking

### Mary's journey to Elizabeth

from Nazareth to a Judean hill town.... = 80 miles !  
young woman travelling on her own  
her other journeys to Bethlehem then to Egypt  
Her faith journey - she must have wondered at times  
Words we sang at the start of service when lighting the candle  
Mary full of courage going on the journey God will greatly bless  
Mary had the promise of verse 37 *For no word from God will ever fail*  
She kept persevering

### Elizabeth

What a wait she and Zechariah had had  
They persevered in their worship of God  
Luke 1:6+7  
*Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren and they were both well on in years.*

Then they receive a promise from God  
And the perseverance had to continue... giving birth to a baby when you are 'well on in years' and then raising that baby needed perseverance  
Elizabeth had the Holy Spirit to help her  
vs 41 *'Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit'*

### Micah

There had been promises to Abraham and David and through other prophets  
The journey of waiting was long  
It was tough times for the God's chosen nation  
The nation was in turmoil  
Northern Kingdom had fallen to the Assyrians  
Parts of the Southern Kingdom were being cut off from Judah and handed over to the Philistines  
There were refugees flooding in to the land from the North

They knew the promises of God but had to wait, to persevere until they came to fruition  
And the Messiah did not come for another 700 years, even after these words from Micah !!  
Perseverance!

### Journey of Advent

How has your journey of Advent been?  
How is your prayer grid looking if you chose to use it?  
Mine... !!

## **Faith Journey...beyond 25th December 2015**

We have that 2 fold promise -

celebration of the birth of the Jesus - the Christ Child - the Son of God

But also of His 2nd coming Could be a LONG wait !!

How is your perseverance?

For those of us with faith in Jesus as the Son of God, who call Him Lord, we have the promise of eternity with Him - that give us a hope, a purpose for the future

But what about the here and now??

We cannot jump from A..... to.....Z

Tim Peake didn't jump from the yes at his selection as an astronaut to the International Space Station

6 years of prep

trials tests

eventually farewells to family

sleepless nights??

take off 4 orbits of the earth

auto docking failure manual docking

But the promise and excitement of what was to come kept him motivated and persevering in all his preparations on a day to day level.

Sure he had doubts at times but the promise kept him going

God has given us a promise which gives us a hope for the future but also for the journey

Show me your ways O Lord, teach me your paths

Guide me in Your truth and teach me

For you are God my Saviour,

And my hope is in you all day long Psalm 25

He has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us day to day

The enabler the comforter the power of God within us

to help us with The every day

the mundane

the difficult

the painful

We come to communion to remember what Jesus did for us and to be nourished by God for our daily lives, not just for the moments we are here in worship together but for the moments we face once we step outside the doors of this church, in order that we may be able to persevere in the journey God has set before us, not just endure it.

Opportunity for anointing with oil after receiving communion for strength for the journey forward beyond this week