



Annunciation, by Caravaggio

The Annunciation

Luke 1.26-38

Advent Sermon

By Rev. Daniel Chua

The Annunciation, by Fra Angelico



Fra Angelico

- Born in Tuscany, 1387; died in Rome, 1455
- Wanted to be Dominican Monk; joined the Order of Preachers
- Art: an extension of his devotion to God
- Painted frescoes: Convent of San Marco
- Declined office of Archbishop of Florence

Vasari, 16th Century Art Historian

“Fra Angelico lead a simple and devout life... He lived in purity and holiness and befriended the poor...He worked continuously at his paintings and would chose only holy subjects. He would often comment that anyone practicing the art of painting needed a quiet and untroubled life...”

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Vasari on Fra Angelico

“He said: ‘The man who occupies himself with the things of Christ should live with Christ and would never take up his brush without a prayer.’ Whenever he painted a crucifixion, tears would stream down his face; and it is no wonder that the faces and attitudes of his figures express the depth and sincerity of his Christian piety.”

The Annunciation, by Fra Angelico





**“I will put enmity
between you
(Satan) and the
woman, between
your offspring
and hers; he will
crush your head,
and you will strike
his heel.”**

--Genesis 3.15



Simeon with the Christ Child
By Rembrandt

“Just as through the disobedience of the first Adam many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the last Adam [Christ] many will be made righteous.”

1 Corinthians 15.19



Isaiah

Isaiah's Prophecies

The Messiah will be...

1. Called God's Servant (49.2)
2. Descended from Jesse/ line of David (11.1, 10)
3. Empowered by the Holy Spirit (11.2; 42.1)
4. Gentle to the weak (42.3)
5. Obedient to God in His mission (50.4-9)
6. Voluntarily submit to suffering (50.6; 53.7-8)

Isaiah's Prophecies

The Messiah will...

7. Be rejected by Israel (49.7; 53.3)
8. Bear the sins of the world (53.4-6)
9. Triumph over death (53.10)
10. Be exalted (52.13)
11. Manifest God's glory (49.3)
12. Restore Israel spiritually to God and physically to the land (49.5, 8)

Isaiah's Prophecies

The Messiah will...

13. Reign on David's throne (9.7)

14. Make a New Covenant with Israel (42.6; 49.8-9)

15. Be a light to the Gentiles (42.6; 49.6)

16. Be worshipped by Gentiles (49.7; 52.15)

17. Govern the world (9.6)

18. Judge in righteousness and justice (11.3-5)

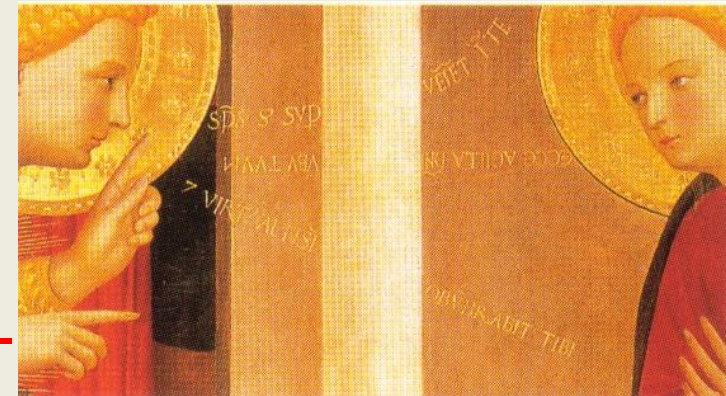


**“Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”
--Isaiah 7.14**



Gabriel: “The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee.” (Luke 1.35)

Mary: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to Thy word.” (Luke 1.38)

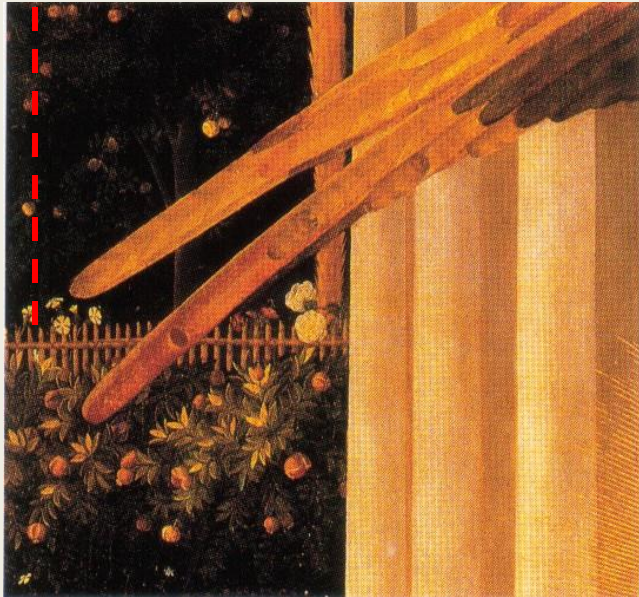


Malcolm Muggeridge

“Mary’s pregnancy, in poor circumstances, and with the father unknown, would have been an obvious case for an abortion; and her talk of having conceived as a result of the intervention of the Holy Ghost would have pointed to the need for psychiatric treatment...”

The Annunciation, by Fra Angelico





Garden fence = “enclosed garden”
= virtuous woman
“entered Zechariah’s home” (Lk 1.40)

Elizabeth to Mary

“Blessed are you among women and
blessed is the child you will bear!

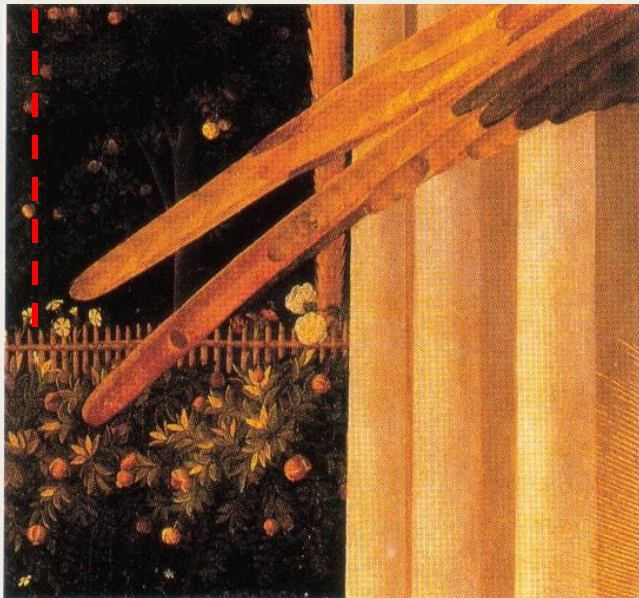
But why am I so favored that the mother of
my Lord should come to me?

As soon as the sound of your greeting reached
my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

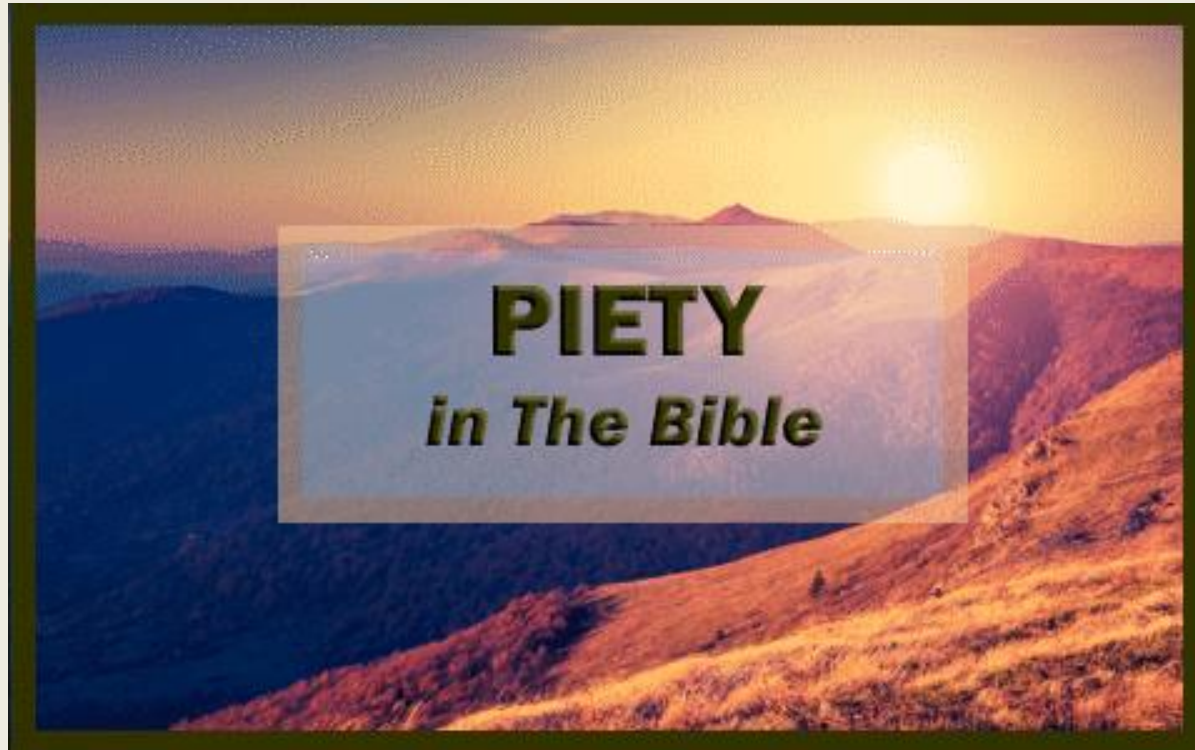
Blessed is she who has believed that what
the Lord has said to her will be accomplished.”

(Luke 1.42-45)

“But... the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.’ ”



“She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” –Matthew 1.18-21



- Question: How is piety reflected in the way we celebrate Christmas this year?

Palm tree





“This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and fore-knowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.”

(Acts 2.23-24)

Census at Bethlehem, by Peter Bruegel the Elder

