



## Meditation for March 24, 2021

### The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord (transferred)

*"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."*

[Luke 2:38]

On Thursday March 25<sup>th</sup> we observe the Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord. Marking nine months until Christmas, it is a moment to reflect on our own willingness to say "yes" to the surprising messengers that God sends into our lives.

What unexpected beginning lies just out of sight? How readily can we say, *Here am I*

*. . . let it be according to your will?*

Of the many meditations on the Annunciation, I find myself returning to this poem by Denise Levertov most often at this time in my life: Denise Levertov, "Annunciation" [*The Stream and the Sapphire*. pp. 59- 61]

We know the scene: the room, variously furnished,  
almost always a lectern, a book; always  
the tall lily.

Arrived on solemn grandeur of great wings,  
the angelic ambassador, standing or hovering,  
whom she acknowledges, a guest.  
But we are told of meek obedience. No one mentions  
courage.

The engendering Spirit  
did not enter her without consent.

God waited.

She was free  
to accept or to refuse, choice  
integral to humanness.

Aren't there annunciations  
of one sort or another  
in most lives?

Some unwillingly  
undertake great destinies,  
enact them in sullen pride,  
uncomprehending.

More often  
those moments  
when roads of light and storm  
open from darkness in a man or woman,  
are turned away from  
in dread, in a wave of weakness, in despair and with relief.  
Ordinary lives continue.

God does not smite them.

but the gates close, the pathway vanishes. . .