



APC Advent Devotional – December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **Astonishment, treasure and praise**

*Today's scripture reading: Luke 2:16-20 (NIV)*

When a baby is born (a miracle in itself), a mother starts a baby album with photos and special keepsakes of the baby's life, starting from the day of the child's birth. With deep love and joy she treasures each and every special moment throughout the child's life and lovingly reflects on and shares these treasures.

Yet, here we are not talking about just any baby, but about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came to earth to save each and every one of us through His death and resurrection.

Mary "treasured up these things and pondered them in her heart." (v. 19) We read later in Luke 2:51 that Mary also "treasured all these things in her heart" when Mary and Joseph found the young Jesus in the Temple. Mary **treasured** all the moments of Jesus' life in order to cherish and more deeply understand Jesus and his important mission on earth.

When the shepherds had seen the baby Jesus, they quickly went out and shared the good news of the birth of this special baby. All were amazed when they heard about Jesus. The shepherds also returned to lift up their voices to glorify and praise God. After reading the passage several times, I could even feel the excitement and the awe being in the presence of Jesus.

Are you coming to Jesus this Advent with **awe and deep adoration**? Are you sharing the good news with others? Of course, these are challenging times we are all going through, but we are called as followers of Christ to glorify and praise God in all things. We are called to share the love and hope of Jesus.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, I thank you for your love at all times. Help me to proclaim and share the good news and praise your holy name at all times.

By Mary Ann Decker

