

**Rev. Thomas Emery**  
***“Favored by God” Luke 1:26-38***  
**Salem Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday, December 21, 2014**

The angel announced to the teenage virgin, Mary, that she would have a child. God would not be content to communicate with His creation by long distance. He would actually become one of us. That is mind boggling. Have you heard the story so many times that you have forgotten what it is saying? The manger of Bethlehem becomes the doorway for God to reveal himself in human flesh as a baby. That's deep! Too deep for many of us.

**TEACHING POINTS**

**Teaching Point One:** *Mary was blessed, because she was obedient, and being favored by God doesn't mean your life will be easy.*

**Teaching Point Two:** *You can rest in comfort knowing that God is in control and that nothing is impossible with God.*

**Teaching Point Three:** *Be thankful for many reasons for those who also say “yes” to God.*

**THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE**

“I am the Lord's servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled” (Luke 1:38 NLT).

**ACTION POINT**

We can be at peace in God's love when know the end of the story. Life is not so scary when you know what you know that God kept his promises and sent a Savior. We know Jesus came and his name is called Emmanuel, meaning "God with us." We know the Word has become flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth, and we have beheld his glory as of the only begotten Son of the Father. And better yet, we know God promises that one day the lion will lie down with the lamb and a little child shall lead them(Isaiah 11:6). We know one day they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they study war any more (Micah 4:3). We know that one day God's kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven; that one day every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:11). You can be at peace when you know the end of the unfolding story of God's love for us.