Cornerstone: January 19, 2019 Prayer Meeting -Tommy Reynolds

 **The Example of Mary**

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

(Observe a period of silence, allowing our minds to become clear and our hearts to become open)

# Opening Prayer

**Leader**: Let us pray.

Mary, our model and mother, by your obedience and patience you have taught us how to be true children of God. Please help us by your powerful assistance, to overcome all our weaknesses, and to fulfill perfectly our tasks in life.

Please open our hearts to the example of your life.

We ask this in your name.

**All: Amen.**

**Theme**

**Leader:** As the Christmas season has just ended, we recently celebrated The Solemnity of Mary, and through the current Gospels we are hearing about the early days of Jesus’ life, we are called to emulate and be inspired by the strength and courage of Mary.

The mother of God.

Our mother.

She lived quite a virtuous and exemplary life.

Let’s reflect on her beautiful life as we listen to our reflection song

**Reflection Song**

 **“Hail Mary, Gentle Woman” - Gretchen Harris**

Hail Mary, full of grace
The Lord is with you
Blessed are you among women
And blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God
Pray for us sinners now
And at the hour of death
Amen.

**Refrain:**
Gentle woman, quiet light
Morning star, so strong and bright
Gentle Mother, peaceful dove
Teach us wisdom; teach us love.

You were chosen by the Father
You were chosen for the Son
You were chosen from all women
And for woman
Shining one.

**Refrain:**
Gentle woman, quiet light
Morning star, so strong and bright
Gentle Mother, peaceful dove
Teach us wisdom; teach us love.

Blessed are you among women
Blest in turn all women, too
Blessed they with peaceful spirits
Blessed they with gentle hearts.

**Refrain:**
Gentle woman, quiet light
Morning star, so strong and bright
Gentle Mother, peaceful dove
Teach us wisdom; teach us love

 **Bible Reflection**

# The Word of God

**Luke 1: 26-38**

**Reader:** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke:

 **26**Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27**to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name *was* Mary. **28**And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored *one,* the Lord *is* with you; [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke 1:26-38&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-24922a)]blessed *are* you among women!”

**29**But when she saw *him,* she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. **30**Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31**And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. **32**He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. **33**And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

**34**Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke 1:26-38&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-24928c)]do not know a man?”

**35**And the angel answered and said to her, “*The* Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. **36**Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. **37**For with God nothing will be impossible.”

**38**Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**All: Glory to You Lord**

**Reflection**

**Silent Reflection:** Please take a few moments to silently reflect on Luke’s Gospel, and what it means to you.

**Shared Reflection:** *Share with the group a reflection or any question that touches you.*

1. What does Mary mean to you?
2. What in the life of Mary do you find most attractive? In what ways can you try to imitate Mary?
3. By emulating Mary, how can you best go about affecting your community, your network of friends, co-workers and family, to create more devotees of Mary?

# Conversational Prayer

1. Thank you, Lord. Thank Jesus for people you care about, calling

 them by name. Be audible and brief.

2. Help me, Lord. Be honest, specific and to the point. Jesus asks, “What do you want me to do for you? Answer him by praying for yourself (that is, for your problems, for forgiveness, guidance, healing) using the pronoun “I” “my” and “me.

3. Help my brother/ sister Lord. Pray for each person by name when

 you pray.

# Closing Prayer

**Leader:** I pray Lord that all gathered here, and those brothers who are not with us this morning but are in our thoughts and our hearts, are open to being inspired by Mary, to live their lives more like your Mother, and fully accept her as their Mother. Amen.

**All: Our Father ……**