

May 9, 2021

# The Sunday View

*"Sir, we wish to see Jesus." — John 12:21*

## Welcome Visitors!

You are our honored guests and we are pleased that you have chosen to visit us today. Our goal is to do everything according to God's word, including respecting its silence. This is a church of Christ; we are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church and we have no earthly "headquarters." The six elders oversee this work and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily aimed at our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don't understand something, please do not hesitate to ask one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God's word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

**Please fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection plate at the entrance. Thank You**

## Schedule

### The Lord's Day Assembly

10:30 AM

Livestream at 10:30 at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLEmwy2lYxrl7ZUgIiZTVqA>

Speaking today: Scott Gardner

**A Relationship With Jesus**

### Young People's Classes Today

High School & Up: 5 PM

Contact David Posey for information at  
(530) 558-5057

Middle School: 5 PM

Contact Dan Stegall for information  
(818) 209-9810

## Weekly Classes

Tuesday 10 AM

**"Conformed to Christ"**

At the Building

Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

**The Attributes of God**

Various Speakers

For an online class on the **Sermon on the Mount**, check with Jack Horak @ [jshorak98@gmail.com](mailto:jshorak98@gmail.com)

Saturday Men's Breakfast

7 AM, second Saturday of the month  
Contact Tyler Wade @ [tyler@ppldev.com](mailto:tyler@ppldev.com)

### Additional Classes

There are some smaller classes in progress. If you are interested in participating in any of them, please contact David Posey

## Information

### Website & Online Presence

Visit our website at [www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com) for updates and material on current and past classes, and recorded sermons and classes. You will also find a directory of churches on page one. If you are a member of the church here at Folsom, see one of the deacons or elders to inquire about access to the password-protected members section. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/folsomchurch>

### Classes & Home Studies

We have classes for children from 18 months and up on Wednesday night at 7 PM. Please see the map in the hallway or ask any of the members which room is appropriate for you and/or your child. There are several Bible studies in progress on Sunday afternoon and evening. Check with David Posey if you have questions.

### Restrooms

There are two sets of restrooms: one off the first hallway to the right of the lobby and another at the end of the first hallway to the left. Ask anyone and they'll be happy to point you in the right direction.

### For Small Children

There is a special room for nursing mothers and a separate "cry room" at the rear of the auditorium. You enter them from the first hallway to the right, across from the restrooms.

### View & Junior View (Let us know if you don't get a copy)

Be sure to pick up a copy of the View and Junior View; both are sent out weekly to our member list and hard copies are printed on Sundays and available in the foyer.

### Prayer Requests & News Items

Send to David Posey at [dpaulposey@mac.com](mailto:dpaulposey@mac.com) or text at 530-558-5057

# Mary, Mother of Jesus

A LESSON IN FAITH AND PERSEVERANCE

For well over a year, I have looked forward to being with the whole church (or most of us) at one time, in one place on a Sunday, preaching just once in front of a real, not virtual, crowd. Unfortunately for me, I developed a head cold at the tail end of our trip to Massachusetts and Florida. I thought it would be better by now, but it's not so I'll be livestreaming tomorrow.

While away, I was thinking about my next sermon from Revelation from chapter 12, probably my favorite chapter in the book. I was going to preach from that chapter this Sunday but it occurred to me that tomorrow is Mother's Day and as I read the first two verses, I saw a connection.

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth.

*Revelation 12:1-2*

This is neither a sermon from Revelation nor a typical Mother's Day sermon. However, I'm going to call on the most famous mother in history to teach us some lessons on what faith under difficult circumstances looks like. As we'll see next week the "woman" is the mother of Jesus, Mary\* and I love the description because it puts the circumstances around the birth of Jesus into perspective.

Though Mary had been given special insight into what was happening to her (see Luke 1:26ff) she still had to go through pregnancy and suffer birth pangs to bring Jesus into the world. You know the story. There was no room at the inn (Luke 2:7). She didn't deliver her boy in a pristine hospital room with doctors and nurses around her or friends in a waiting room. Far from it. When the baby was born, she had to use a feeding trough as a crib.

This whole event challenges those who think that when things go smoothly in their already-formed plans that God's hand must be in it all. Yet, he didn't even smooth the path for Mary and Joseph when Mary was doing the most important work any woman has ever done — bringing the Savior into the world. And I doubt that Mary felt she was, at that moment in time, *"clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."*

Yet, there is no evidence that Mary ever questioned God about any of her hardships. She never said, "It's hard enough being pregnant before marriage, why doesn't God at least find a comfortable room for me?" And the physical hardship was the least of it. The angel told her *"...and a sword will pierce through your own soul also."* Imagine, mothers especially, what Mary went through. She was not unaware

of the verbal abuse Jesus endured, but it got much worse. She was at the cross watching her perfect son die in the most horrific way possible. That sword pierced her heart — how many times? In her song, earlier, she sang, *"from now on, all generations will call me blessed"* (Luke 1:48). Do you think she felt blessed at the foot of the cross? "Clothed with sun, the moon under her feet..." Don't you think she would have readily traded that "crown of twelve stars" for the crown of thorns that Jesus wore. Why? Because she was a mother.

Mary persevered. Three days after staring in horror at her son dying on the cross she witnessed his resurrection from the dead. Just thinking about that stirs my emotions. But I'm convinced that there is something God has put in mothers that deepens that emotion ten-fold.

Mary is a wonderful example of what the Christian walk is all about. From the crib to the grave, from fear to faith, from incredible loss to final victory, Mary embodies it all.

It doesn't need saying but I'll say it: we will never face circumstances as trying as Mary's. Her particular experience

is not transferrable. So, what's the takeaway? Let me seize, one more time, on what we might have learned from our experience this past year. Mary never lived "under the circumstances." She accepted things as they are and, from what we know about it, she was content.

I hope you can say that you did everything in your power to keep the pandemic from winning. I don't mean "winning" by making you sick. I mean winning by not allowing it to weaken your faith or put distance between you and your brothers and sisters in the church. That would be a tragedy far worse than dying from the disease. I don't need to tell you that the command to *"Love one another"* is scattered throughout the Bible...

God expects us to maintain our faith through thick and thin. A faith that does not survive difficult circumstances is probably only a reasonable facsimile of a living faith, not the real thing. Real, living faith is powerful. I Peter 1:7,

*...so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Can you imagine, at judgment, someone saying, "Yeah, but the pandemic..." in trying to explain their total lack of interaction with fellow Christians? I don't think that will make an impression on the God of Mary.

Overall I could not be more proud of how the church here has persevered this past year. Think about what Mary dealt with. Whenever I'm tempted to bemoan my circumstances, her life shuts my mouth.

\* The term "woman" in Revelation can refer to a person or categories of people, even within a few verses. I'll go into more detail on that next week.

# Quotes

## Speaking of Mary

Mary gives us a short and powerful “sermon” about Her Son Jesus, found in John 2:5. She simply says to those who are serving at the wedding feast “*Whatever He says to you, do it.*”

## From a social media friend:

I was pushing my 8-year-old granddaughter Abby in the swing in her front yard, our favorite place. She and her twin Erin had been learning about childbirth from their mother. Abby was not liking what she was learning. “I’m not going to have children, Grandpa,” she said. “It hurts too bad.”

My first thought was to say, “If your mother felt that way, you would not be here. And if your great-grandmothers felt that way, none of us would be here.” But what I said was, “You’re right. It does hurt. But the pain goes away, and you’re left with this beautiful child, and you decide that it was worth it.”

The child looked me square in the eyes and said, “You’re a man. What do you know?”

## What My Mother Taught Me

My mother taught me **RELIGION**: When I spilled grape juice on the carpet, she instructed, “You’d better **pray** the stain comes out of the carpet.”

My mother taught me **LOGIC**: “Because I said so, that’s why.”

My mother taught me **FORESIGHT**: “Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you’re in an accident.”

My mother taught me **IRONY**: “Keep crying, and I’ll give you something to cry about.”

My mother taught me about **WORK ETHIC**: “Oh, you’re bored are you? We’ll take care of that.”

My mother taught me about **WEATHER**: “It looks as if a tornado went through your room.”

My mother taught me **THE CIRCLE OF LIFE**: “I brought you into this world, and I can take you out.”

My mother taught me about **ENVY**: “There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don’t have a wonderful Mom like you do!”

## Think About It

*“The true joy of motherhood is never realized until all the children are in bed.”*

## Let’s Not Forget This

*“For you formed my inward parts;  
you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.”*

Psalm 139:13

## “Had I Been Joseph’s Mother”

*by Ruth Bell Graham*

*Had I been Joseph’s mother*

*I’d have prayed*

*protection from his brothers:*

*“God keep him safe;*

*he is so young,*

*so different from*

*the others.”*

*Mercifully she never knew*

*there would be slavery*

*and prison, too.*

*Had I been Moses’ mother*

*I’d have wept*

*to keep my little son;*

*praying she might forget*

*the babe drawn from the water*

*of the Nile,*

*had I not kept*

*him for her*

*nursing him the while?*

*Was he not mine*

*and she*

*but Pharaoh’s daughter?*

*Had I been Daniel’s mother*

*I should have pled*

*“Give victory!*

*This Babylonian horde –*

*godless and cruel –*

*don’t let them take him captive*

*– better dead,*

*Almighty Lord!”*

*Had I been Mary –*

*Oh, had I been she,*

*I would have cried*

*as never a mother cried,*

*“...Anything, O God,*

*anything ...*

*but crucified!”*

*With such prayers*

*importunate*

*my finite wisdom*

*would assail*

*Infinite Wisdom;*

*God, how fortunate*

*Infinite Wisdom*

*should prevail!*