

“Ponderous Pondering” – December 24, 2016  
by Wayne J Schneider – Gloria in Excelsis Deo

## “PONDEROUS PONDERING.”

Christmas Eve is a time to ponder. The word ‘ponder’ comes from the Latin root word ‘pondus’ meaning a ‘weight.’ So, to ponder means to contemplate or to meditate. Verse 19 of chapter 2 says, *“Mary treasured up all the things, pondering them in her heart.”*

Mary sits staring at the fire when the angel Gabriel appears before her. “Greetings O favored one,” he says (1:28). Mary does not feel favored; frightened, yes. Praying this is a bad dream, she is shaken at her foundation.

Gabriel smiles, *“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus”* (1:30-31). The angel sings of her son: *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High* (1:32).

“How can this be? I am unmarried.” And the announcement of God troubles her. *“For nothing will be impossible with God”*. She whispers, *“Let it be to me according to Your word”*. Is it possible for us to ponder like Mary? Later, there will be time to investigate the Scripture, to be rational about all of this. However, the substance of Christmas is not logical, God does not ask us to ‘figure out’ Christmas Eve.

God does not call us to wait until epiphany when the three Wise Men arrive.

But, the wise men weren’t rational either. They pondered along following the heavens. So, tonight you and I are not asked to be rational, just to give God the glory. That is the goal of Christmas.

That hearing the story anew we may be moved as was Mary and say, *“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”* (1:46)

*“Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.”* (2.19)

Sing with Mary as you go out into a night, not nearly as dark as when you entered this place. Alleluia. Amen.