

## Mary- The Unexpected Mother

“How is this possible?’ asked Mary as the angel told her that she would be a mother. Shocked, perplexed, surprised by this miracle, she didn’t know how to respond. Mary is all those women who become mothers all too young. She is among those who are surprised and wonder how in the world they are going to care for their new born. .. Those who search for resources and support and pray, oh, Lord do they pray, to God for help.

Mary sings for joy as reality sinks in. Her song is of celebration and boldness. It is a song of rebellion. This world cannot and will not stay the same if she is to raise this precious child with so much promise. She is all those mothers who want a better world for her children... who dig in and work hard that her child will know kindness, hope, love and peace as a citizen of this planet. She wants to change this world for the sake of her children and her children’s children. She is as all mothers who sing lullabies at night and laugh with glee as they log roll downs hills with their children. She is all mothers who hum a favorite song as they feed their newborn... Those songs can be as different as “All You Need Is Love” or “Will the Circle Be Unbroken”- but they are songs of sweet cherishing...Some of those songs are off tune and some gorgeous- but all beautiful. She is the mother who dreams great dream and wants more for her children than anyone can ever imagine.

She beams with pride at good report cards, amazing insights, soccer victories and defeats... she looks on with great excitement at unique creations out of paper and paste and concerts.

Mary looks for her son who has chosen to travel the countryside to preach and heal “the least of these”. She wonders if she would ever befriend the gang of disciples that Jesus has chosen to travel with. Mary worries about him. She finds him

and asks him to come home. He rejects her. She is all the mothers who stay up at night and worry for their children. Mary is all the mothers who wait for their children to come home when they are out past curfew. She is the mother who waits with fear for a phone call from the jail or the hospital. She is the mother who faces the fact that her children make different choices than her. Our children grow up and away from us. And isn't that really our job as mothers- to help our children grow up? But the choices they make sometimes breaks our heart. . She is the mother who studies the adult that stands before her and wonders where the small child she once knew so well went.

Mary stands at the cross and weeps. Her son is dying and she knows it. "How is this possible?" she weeps. But Jesus looks on her with love. Their eyes meet. He lets her know that she is not alone. He has friends that need her and she will have a whole community that will surround her with love. Mary is all those mothers who grieve when their children die, she is all those mothers who ache deep inside and ask why. At the same time she is contesting God, she hangs onto God for dear life. But, Mary also sings resurrection songs as she discovers the reality of new life.

Mary is also all the mothers who see the whole community of children as her family. She is the grandmother who gives out pop cycles on a hot summer's day.... the fiery mother who speaks up against bullying at the school board. She is the mother who advocates for children who are hungry. She is the mother who tutors and who opens her house to the whole neighborhood.

Oh, Mary, you are the one who has taught us awe, celebration, determination, fight and grief. Sweet, baffled, strong and kind Mary we thank you for your "yes"