



# Daily Reflections

**January 1, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **Luke 2: 16-21**

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.

When they saw this,  
they made known the message  
that had been told them about this child.

All who heard it were amazed  
by what had been told them by the shepherds.

And Mary kept all these things,  
reflecting on them in her heart.

Then the shepherds returned,  
glorifying and praising God  
for all they had heard and seen,  
just as it had been told to them.

When eight days were completed for his circumcision,  
he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel  
before he was conceived in the womb.

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## Our Scripture Reflection

How overwhelmed Mary could have been by the many miraculous events that occurred in her life because of Jesus. How did she get through it all? Faith. But not just any kind of faith. Mary's faith was rooted, deeply rooted, in trust. Mary trusted her Heavenly Father in all things and she was never

disappointed. Mary's stance needs to be our stance as we enter a brand new year. May you have a happy and blessed new year!

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## **Food for your Journey**

The New Year means a fresh start, a second wind, another chance, a kind of reprieve, a divine act of grace bestowed. If we have made serious blunders, they are made. All our tears cannot unmake them. We may learn from them and carry our hard-won lessons into the New Year. We can remember them, not with pain, but with gratitude that in our new wisdom we can live into the present year with deeper understanding and greater humanity.

--Howard Thurman.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time. Amen