

## December 9 & 10, 2017

*"Making Room for Doubt in a Culture of Cynicism"*  
Luke 1:11-22, 1:26-38

Message by Steve Fowler  
Worship led by Laura Scharer

Music:

Angels We Have Heard on High	The First Noel	It is Well with My Soul
Oceans (Where Feet May Fall)	O Come All Ye Faithful	

Both are visited by the angel Gabriel  
Both are promised the miraculous birth of a son  
Both are equally unfit to have a child:  
Zechariah's wife is barren, and Mary is a virgin  
Both respond with equal perplexity—"How?"

"But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak..." — Luke 1:20

"You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."  
Luke 1:45

To doubt is to possess a spiritual double vision.

A skeptic asks questions in search of answers.

"If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts he shall end in certainties." — Sir Francis Bacon

A cynic asks questions to deconstruct.

"You can't go on 'seeing through' things forever. The whole point of seeing through something is to see something through it. To 'see through' all things is the same as not to see." — C. S. Lewis

It is ok to want and to ask for explanations when we are perplexed.

It is possible to demand too much evidence before you believe God.

The best of us fall into seasons of unbelief.

Am I processing my doubts as a cynic or a skeptic?

Be gracious to those who ask honest questions.

Place yourself in places where you can experience God.