

IN EXCELSIS DEO

ADVENT 2024

Monday, December 9

Read: Luke 1:18-20

Looking back on my near 75 years, it's easy to see so many of them have been spent waiting. That's what life is, for the most part. We wait to grow up, find the love of our life, have children and, that most prized blessing of all, have grandchildren.

One of the first things I'll never forget waiting for anxiously was as a young teen. It was 1965 and The Beatles were coming to Houston. My best friend and I were huge fans. We lived and breathed "the Fab Four."

Early that year, her dad asked if we'd like to go. It was a dream come true, but there was one big hurdle, my very protective mom. I'd never even spent the night at a sleepover. She always said, "You have a bed, and you belong in it." It was the happiest day when she gave her permission.

Then came the wait. With each 24 hours, I marked off yet another day on my calendar.

Sure enough on August 18, my girlfriend's family pulled up in their sedan to whisk me away. And just as her dad had promised, we were going to what would be an unforgettable concert.

But that's not always the way life is. There are often days, weeks, months and years that pass on our calendars without God answering our prayers. We wait, like Zechariah and his wife, and we try to be patient. As time passes, it gets harder. Here's when faith comes in. Zechariah's had begun to wane. When the angel told him he'd finally have a son, he doubted, partly because of his and his wife's advanced ages. While God still granted him the blessing, Zechariah was struck dumb for nine months.

We all know what Zechariah should have said at the angel's news -- a hearty "Thanks to God the wait is over." That's a lesson for us all. Praise God for everything he does for us, no matter when.

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