Wednesday, March 25, 2020 4 p.m. Prayer Service

**Opening Song:** Ave Maria (Chant) BB#692

**Opening Prayer:**
Loving God, as we celebrate the feast of the Annunciation, we thank you for Mary and her courageous Yes to you and your call. May her example of listening and responding to Your Spirit inspire each of us in this time of uncertainty to say Yes to whatever it is you ask of us. May her Magnificat be a reminder today to pray for those who are poor, oppressed and broken hearted, and to trust in your unconditional love for all of us. Amen. Carol Brenner, SC

**Reflection:** Mary Said “NO” by Joan Metzner, MM

Deep in her heart
where Peace dwells,
Mary said, “Yes,
I am a holy child of God.”
So strong her “yes”, so deep,
it generated a lifetime of “no’s”
to every lingering doubt
about herself.

“No,” she said
to every suggestion
that she was other than
beloved of God.

“No, it is not so”
the Faithful One replied
to thoughts that
her mistakes
were other than silly.

“No,” to the excessive demands
on her life.
“No,” to the rat race.
“No,” to the drug,
“What will they think?”

“Just say “no” Mary
passes on to old and new generations
of sons and daughters,
“Just say ‘no’,”

“Just say ‘no’,” she counsels
with a mother’s gentle comfort,
compassionate strength.

Doubts will assail you.
But let your ‘no’s”
return you to your home,
to the quiet core of your being
where Peace dwells
and say with your faithful Mother
“Yes
I am the holy child of God.”

Silent Reflection:

Closing Prayer:

Today we celebrate the feast of the Annunciation. We honor Mary who followed the will of God all her life. She said yes, to what God asked of her. Mary is a model of faith for all of us. We honor you, Mary, as the Mother of God and our mother too.

Closing Song: Mary’s Song BB#682 (all verses)