



## **Heartbeats along the way: The Pondering, Treasuring Heart**

*"But Mary treasured all these words, and pondered them in her heart." Luke 2:19*

The writer of Luke points us to the Pondering, Treasuring Heart of Mary as she faces two times when Jesus surprises everyone - one when He comes as a helpless infant - not to the "royalty" of the time, but to a near-homeless, barely-married family, heralded by an Earth-shaking chorus of angels. Again, not to the High Society of the day, but to outcast, nameless shepherds.

The second time is when the young teen Jesus scares and shocks his parents by disappearing for days into the Temple to chat with the scholars there. Jesus astounds and surprises the rabbis, and what does Mary do? She doesn't scold, but again treasures these events.

The writer uses the same Greek word as he shows us Mary's heart as she deals with these wild times. Our translators say she "kept," "pondered," and "treasured" them in her heart. Evidently the writer wants us to know that Mary never turned away - that when Jesus did unanticipated things, Mary kept her eyes on Him and remembered who He was and what He did - treasuring every moment - guarding always every move, "lest she forget."

Let us pray that as Jesus leads us at CUMC to do painful things - to leave our old buildings, to build new kinds of rooms, to embrace new kinds of neighbors, to go to places unknown - that we, like Mary, never turn away, but keep our eyes on Jesus, keep remembering HIS commands: "LOVE each other as I have loved you; love (even!) your enemies!"

*"Lord, as we move toward a "new" CUMC, may we, like those other unlikely shepherd pioneers in The Story, go quickly into the uncomfortable part of the city; for there, we shall find Him!"*

~ Don Schoeps