

<b>Worship Date</b>	Sunday, December 20, 2009
<b>Worship Theme</b>	The Lord's Word is Fulfilled (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent "Peace")
<b>Scripture Reference</b>	Luke 1:39-45/1:39-44 IV
<b>Materials</b>	Story and picture

Last week we learned that John the Baptist told the Jews that to be part of God's kingdom they needed to be good to other people. Sometimes what God asks us to do can be a little scary. Today's scripture is about the time when Mary went to see Elizabeth, John the Baptist's mother. Mary was more than a little afraid to be the mother of the Messiah, but she had faith. The story today is about a little puppy that was scared too. See if you can tell how the puppy's human parents are like God.

Brandi Lynn and the Thunder Clap  
By Alan Mardis

Brandi Lynn is a cute little brown and white puppy with shaggy hair, a curlicue tail and one bent ear. She likes to make the other puppies think she's the brave one and of course is always in charge. Those who know her well, though, know she's really not very brave at all. That is what this story is about.

One cloudy Saturday afternoon Brandi Lynn was lying on her favorite chair, a big soft recliner. She liked to have her favorite blanket to lie on and some soft pillows to lean against. This is just how it was that day and she was sleeping quite comfortably. Suddenly, her head popped up and her ears perked up (even the bent one as best it could). Her human mom and dad could see something had her attention. "Look at Brandi, I think the storm is getting closer," said dad. "It's supposed to be a bad one," said mom.

After a bit Brandi laid back down, but you could tell she was worried and she didn't stay down long. Up popped her head again and this time she jumped off the chair and stood on the floor listening. Just then a loud thunder clap boomed. It sounded like it was right on top of the house. Brandi didn't hesitate; she flew out of the room, down the hall, into the bedroom and under the bed. Mom and dad had never seen her run so fast before.

They finally coaxed her out from under the bed and cuddled her and whispered softly in her ear. Mom wrapped her in her favorite blanket and sat holding her in her arms in that big recliner. After awhile Brandi began to feel comfortable, safe and loved. She began to feel at peace lying there in mom's arms and soon drifted off to sleep.

Have you ever been frightened by a big storm? What did the puppy do to feel better? Sometimes we feel very small, just like this puppy. Jesus was once small too. I wonder if he was ever frightened by a big storm. Did you notice what the puppy's family did that is like what God does for us? (Allow time for answers.) It says that the "mom" got the dog out from under the bed and wrapped her in a warm blanket. Do you ever feel as if God is trying to help you be brave? He sends us people to give us hugs and to help us do the right thing for other people. We have to listen to God's whispers and trust in him just as Mary did when she had Jesus.

You and I can feel at peace too, when we let God wrap His arms around us and hold us close.

Dear God, help us be as brave as Mary and help us to listen to you so that we can be at peace. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.