Alternative reading to Luke 1: 26-35 The annunciation

THE ANNUNCIATION

For some,
The annunciation comes
As a too-strong smell, our new dog-sensitive nose sending
Us retching from previous favourites:
Lobster bisque; steak; gravy; gorgonzola
Now intolerable
But with the new, exciting reason we dare not name.
For others, cold, hard science enters our lives:
A white stick and blue line met with blurred eyes as we
Fumble, rustle and half read impenetrable instructions,
Caught between glee, fear and self-consciousness.
How many more of us have felt stupid when,
Asking the doctor why we're so tired, we're told
Just what she was so long ago, our modern angel smiling, sensitive
Just as hers was, a messenger from God.
However we get the news, early, late, unexpected, longed-for,
We, like our mother-sister Mary, are forever changed.
We may not grow God within us but we are joined with her:
Something divine enters our lives and we
Become more than ourselves:
The focus of God's plan for the future.

Lucy McIlwraith