

Living FAITH

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

4th Sunday of Advent – Year A

“An Angel Tells of the Birth of Jesus”

WE GATHER

God of Peace;
As we enter this Advent season,
help keep our advent flames of hope, love,
joy and peace burning bright.
Help us prepare our hearts in readiness for
the coming of a humble peacemaker,
sent to heal and free the world.
We make this prayer in Jesus’ name.

Amen

WE LISTEN

A reading from Luke (1:26-38)

An Angel Tells about the Birth of Jesus

One month later God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee with a message for a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph from the family of King David. The angel greeted Mary and said, “You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you.”

Mary was confused by the angel’s words and wondered what they meant. Then the angel told Mary, “Don’t be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor David was. He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom will never end.”

Mary asked the angel, “How can this happen? I am not married!”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God’s power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth is also going to have a son, even though she is old. No one thought she could ever have a baby, but in three months she will have a son. Nothing is impossible for God!”

Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant! Let it happen as you have said.”
And the angel left her.



For hope:
That advent may be a season of renewed *hope*
for all who have been feeling hopeless.
Lord, hear us.

For love:
That advent may be a reminder to
share the *love* of Jesus to all.
Lord, hear us.

For joy:
That all anxiety and sadness be replaced
with the *joyful* spirit of advent.

For peace:
That communities in conflict use this advent season
to come together in *peace* and harmony.
Lord, hear us.

For our own needs...
Lord, hear us.



WE REFLECT

There are libraries full of stories of people who are brave and who do amazing things. Superheroes are just one example of people who do the extraordinary... making the impossible, **possible**. But we all know that while they are inspiring, Superheroes are not real. They are just characters that someone with a wonderful imagination dreamed up. Mary however **is** real. She is the perfect example of how we can be brave and do extraordinary things in our own lives. We don't need a cape, or superpowers, all we have to do is trust in God's plan for us and say "yes". So, as we continue to prepare for the coming of Jesus we also need to prepare our hearts to be guided by God. Then, using Jesus' gifts of hope, faith, joy, peace and love, we can spend 2021 saying "yes" to God making the impossible, **possible!**

WE ARE SENT FORTH

Jesus,
Thank you for reminding us that the most important part of Christmas
is spreading hope, joy, love and peace.
In the busyness of Christmas,
help us to prepare the way for Your Spirit.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Son of the Living God.
Amen.

***In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Amen***

***"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let
ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.***

- Pope Francis

Advent Candle Anne Nygard
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Scripture quotations taken from the Contemporary English Version (CEV)

