

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2011

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 (1)

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

Blessed is Emmanuel "God with us." The One prophesied has come. The One foretold has appeared!

Our God delights in taking nothing and making something. He is so very good at this. David was a shepherd boy who became a king. But there was more to come for David than his being king; his kingdom would be established forever through the Eternal Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy an angel appeared to Elizabeth's cousin Mary in Galilee. Mary was betrothed to Joseph who was of the House of David. The angel said to the still virgin Mary, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary's stunned response was "How can this be when I am a virgin?" As a sign to the young virgin of the truth of what he was saying the angel told Mary that her barren cousin, Elizabeth, was now in the sixth month of her own pregnancy so that Mary might know "nothing is impossible with God."

Galilee was a shunned region for those who lived in Jerusalem. Nazareth was a small town of 150-200 people but that was where Mary and Joseph lived and that is where God came down. Holy Spirit came upon Mary, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her and she conceived in her womb the holy child, Jesus just as the angel said.

Against the odds a shepherd boy became king, a barren aged woman became a mother and the impossible was quietly accomplished in Mary's womb for her to conceive a child who would shake the world and bring eternal life to man. Pause, ponder and think on this miraculous God who can do anything.

God is with us! The only wise God! Hallelujah! He chose us before we knew Him! Why, we do not know. It's a miracle and we accept His choice and His grace. We accept His way for our lives just as the servants of old. With Mary let us say "Here am I, your servant Lord; let it be with me according to your word." With our mouths let us say "I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations." This is the joy that overwhelms us at the goodness of God Our Savior.

“Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to the gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith , to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.”

Advent blessings to all who love His appearing!

Bishop Nancy Drew