



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY December 20 & BEYOND

Preparing Christ's Dwelling Place within Us



The Collect for this Fourth Sunday of Advent urges us to purify our conscience 'that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself'.

The thought that comes to our mind when we speak of a mansion is a lavish home with fine premises and decorations. It may have been the intention of the person writing this prayer to stress the fact that our God deserves the absolute best inside us to be offered to Him as His dwelling place within us. Even so, the Old Testament shows us that God's preferred dwelling place was a moving tent, and Jesus clearly stated that 'the son of man had no place to recline his head'.

It was only later in the history of Israel that a magnificent temple was built as a symbol of God's presence, but the prophets and Jesus himself had a clear notion that God did not need a fixed building as a dwelling place, since the whole world is His.

Our God has no needs. It is us who have a constant need of Him, and He is always trying to find the way to dwell with us, because His love for us is greater than our human understanding.

When God approached Mary through Gabriel to make the mystery of His incarnation possible, He was clearly not looking for a woman of high social standing or prestige. God was looking for a tent where He would be welcomed, where the encounter between the human and the divine would take place in the humblest of ways, with total acceptance.

The angel's greeting to Mary is clear: God is with you! He does not refer to a future event, but to an ever-present reality. God is always with each of us. It is us who often try to run away from Him. God is certainly not looking for "mansions" in an earthly sense to make a dwelling with us. He is always inviting us to open the tents of our hearts to His constant presence, so that He can be on the move with us, and guide us all along the way, as He did with the Israelites in the desert.

The initiative is always His, but we need to make room for Him in the tents of our lives. A clean, roomy, and open tent will do. The mystery of His incarnation was made possible thanks to God's self-emptying with the cooperation of a young maiden with a total willingness to obey His will for her. But His incarnation is a continuing and ever-present reality in each of us now. He wants to keep on living with us, among us, in us. Let us do our part by cleaning, making room and opening wide for Him the tents of our lives.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16 Psalm 132:8-15 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

CALENDAR

Note: Sunday Mass is now via Zoom at 9am until further notice. Tuesday Noon Mass is held in the courtyard. All other gatherings will be Zoom meetings. Visit our web site for the Zoom link (see below).

SUNDAY The Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:00am Mass via Zoom
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

TUESDAY Noon Mass in All Saints' courtyard

THURSDAY Christmas Eve Mass
2:00pm Mass via Zoom
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available about 4pm at www.allsaintschurch.org

FRIDAY Christmas Day Mass
10:00am Mass via Zoom
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available about noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

SUNDAY The First Sunday after Christmas
9:00am Mass via Zoom
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org