**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

December 23rd 2018

*God here I am!*

What does Christmas mean to you? Have you ever even thought what difference what Jesus coming into the world has made in your life? In this last Sunday of Advent we have a set of beautiful readings that challenge how we see this Christmas story - and ultimately how we have prepared for it. In our first reading we hear that God is to choose Bethlehem. The least of all clans. In the Second Reading we’ve got the beautiful phrase from Christ “God here I am! I am coming to obey your will”. And then finally in the Gospel we’ve got the story of Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visiting her cousin Elizabeth who was also miraculously pregnant. In God’s story He uses the **least** of peoples, He uses those who say **“Yes! Here I am”** and He uses **the unexpected person.** Our God is the God of surprises and the God of miracles. No one would have ever thought that the King of the Universe would come to earth as a baby! No one would ever have thought that God would come to earth through the yes of a young insignificant girl. And no one would ever have thought that this was how the story would work out. But our God...well His thoughts and ways are not our ways...He uses the weak to lead the strong. He used a baby to save all human kind. The next time you are feeling small and unimportant - remember that’s exactly how Mary would have felt! God can use us wherever we are. All He needs from us is one phrase “God here I am”.

Catherine

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