

## **The Wait Is Almost Over**

**2 Sam. 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a-16; Rom. 16: 25-27; Lk. 1: 26-38**

We have arrived at the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Our time of waiting is almost over. After Sunday, there will be four more days until the Lord comes to us. But are we ready to receive Him?

Over the past few weeks, we have been told repeatedly: 'Stay awake. Be ready. Make a straight and level path for the Lord.' But have we done this? Have we filled in the valleys of our lives and knocked down the mountains? If we haven't, there is still time to do these things; to make changes in our lives.

But we may be hindered by our confusion and doubt about what is to happen. What is this event all about? How do we properly prepare? In the Gospel, we learn of Mary's confusion and doubt as well. When the Angel Gabriel appears to her and tells her that she will conceive and bear a son whom she will call Jesus, the Son of God, she initially expresses confusion and doubt. Why are you here and why are you speaking to me this way? How is it possible that I can conceive since I am still a virgin?

But after the briefest of explanations, Mary demonstrates another great theme for the Advent season, humility, when she utters these words: 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.' Mary no longer questions. Out of humility and love, she opens herself completely and allows God to execute His plan of salvation through her.

This is a lesson for us. Have we allowed humility to level the mountains of arrogance and pride in our hearts? Have we allowed love to fill in the valleys of doubt, confusion and fear within us? This is how we can prepare a straight and level path into our hearts so that we can receive the Lord.

In the Collect for the Mass, we prayed: 'Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts...'. We look for God's grace to help us to make sense of this wondrous event in the history of the world and to properly prepare for it.

In this time of pandemic and the many other calamities in the world, it is easy to give in to doubt and fear. Many of us can despair of ever finding solutions to these problems but we can take comfort in the words of the Angel: 'For nothing will be impossible with God.'

Let us have faith that God is constantly working to save the world. The incarnation of the Word, the coming of Jesus into the world, is the most wondrous proof of God's infinite love for us. Jesus is the light of the world. He brought light into our darkness more than two thousand years ago and He will bring light into our world now.