

## Advent 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cycle B

[2 Samuel 7:1-5 8b-12, 14a, 16](#)

[Psalm 89:2-3,4-5,27,29](#)

[Romans 16:25-27](#)

[Luke 1:26-28](#)

[Holiday](#)

Light all four candles of the Advent wreath.

### Opening prayer

*Good and gracious God,*

*Remind me that you are the source of my strength.*

*Help me to reflect upon the challenges of my life with a Yes you have heard before.*

*Give me faith and trust of Mary.*

*Help me echo the Yes that Mary.*

This week we reflect on our call to remember the trust with which Mary said "Yes" to the willing God. Last week, we heard John the baptizer call to "make straight the way of the Lord." How well-prepared are you to celebrate the coming of the Lord this year?

### Reflection

Mary was a girl of about 13, living in a male dominated society, with no rights for economic status. She encountered an angel, who told her that God had found favor with her and that she would conceive a child who would save the world. She would have been totally confused, possibly scared to death! Yep, Mary, with total trust said: "*Behold I am the handmaiden of the Lord. May be done according to your word.*"

We Catholics are well known for Marian devotion. But many of us did not comprehend the difficulties Mary would have encountered as an unmarried pregnant teenager who lived in poverty during her entire pregnancy. And then she had to travel far to Egypt to escape the assassination of her newborn baby boy. When she was hardly more than a child herself, she accepted God's plan for her life and became a model woman of faith for all, no matter the circumstances. With a tremendous leap of faith, Mary has shown us that "all things are possible with God."

Sadly, in today's world, the annual celebration of Mary's trust has been replaced by so many by a holiday focus solely on Santa Claus. Children learn to trust that good behavior will result in gifts on Christmas day. Christmas marketing is centered on a jolly old guy in a red suit and on the exchange of presents, often with very little reference to the human side of Mary. Let us focus during this Christmas season, on the humanity of Mary, her challenging circumstances and on the trust in God she manifested. She is a witness for us, especially today, that – "all things are possible with God."

Consider the Scriptures and the questions below.

How would you assess the quality of your "Yes" to God these days?

And what areas of your life, do you need to trust in God more fully?

In these final days of joyful preparation, how might you invite your family to be more focused on the meaning of Christmas?

If Jesus were to visit your house, how might you prepare?

**Response and action**

Engage in alternative gift giving this Christmas. Contact an agency such as food share that works to end hunger and make a donation.

Subscribe to the newsletter of the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford ([www.catholicsocialjustice.org](http://www.catholicsocialjustice.org)) and discover ways of reaching out and welcoming people in need.

*Scripture reflections based upon the Quest publications from the Archdiocese of Hartford.*