

Revd Michael Burns  
Christ Church West Wimbledon  
Sermon : December 20th, 2020  
“Fourth Sunday of Advent”

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**ADVENT 4 2020**

“I wish Christmas would hurry up and arrive” said a small child to me recently. I know exactly how he feels. For me, the sermons are written, the services are all ready – I am just waiting. So too in today’s readings, the stage is set, the timing is right – and the focus is about to shine out in the person of Jesus. Typically, we find God delighting in using the ordinariness of good people so that extraordinary things can be accomplished. God allows individual people to know their own part in the action exactly as and when they need to know it.

Today, in the portion of Luke’s Gospel we hear the account of what happened before the birth as Mary (and in the background Joseph too) waited. As Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, we can only imagine the talk between them both as they waited together. There is often comfort to be had in being with someone who is going through what you are going through. But furthermore, it is Elizabeth who shares with Mary the extraordinary revelation that God’s blessing really is going to be upon her as she bears the Son of God.

So it is through the willing participation of Mary and Joseph, God is poised to come among his people as their Saviour – and that is, quite simply, all that we need to remember for now as we celebrate that it was this ready agreement by these two ordinary people that made Christmas possible.

In the Christmas story, we find God delighting in using the ordinariness of good people so that extraordinary things can be accomplished. And still today he continues to accomplish extraordinary things through ordinary people, through you and through me. And for that truth both now at Christmas and in the New Year to come, thanks be to God.