

4th Sunday of Advent – Year B

1st Reading: God's Covenant with David

What's a 'Covenant'

More than a contract

+ Plow my field for \$50

+ Plow my field for life for daughter

(Change of name, clothes, blood)

I. OT Covenants – 2 types

- Conditional, like Moses
- Unconditional like David (Not an IF in sight in 2Sam)

(7 Promises – 7 “I will’s”)

I will make you famous

I will fix a place for my people Israel

I will plant them that they may dwell without disturbance

I will give you rest from your enemies

I will raise you your heir

I will make his kingdom firm forever

I will be a father to him

- Yet David's throne IS lost (Babylonian Captivity)
- Or was it? – Mary's Yes is going to fulfill Nathan's prophecy

II. At St. Tim's, my old parish, we had flutes, drums, guitars, organ and choir What do a flute, a chalice and Mary have in common?

Usefulness is in the fact they are empty

- In Annunciation Mary empties herself, she becomes God's flute.
- This decision of Mary has profound implications – for her & for us
- Our decisions, every day, also have profound implications
 - How we live our lives
 - How much of ourselves we are willing to give to God
 - How empty we are willing to be

III. In Scripture God often brings someone to a point of being emptied in order to use them.

- Jonah in the whale – to deal with his pride
- Israel in the desert during the Exodus (after being afraid to enter Canaan) CALEB
- Even Christ surrendered, emptied Himself on the Cross

None of these experiences were pleasant – but God never left them alone!

- God was with Jonah in the whale
- God was with Israel in the desert
- God was with Christ on the Cross

God is with us – despite what's happening in your life, job, home, school.

God is with you.

As we come to the end of Advent – joy and excitement – anticipation. WHY?

Emmanuel – God with us – in the emptiness, we Rejoice!

We're in good company. God is with us – Emmanuel.