

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – Year B

Do you like surprises?

I can remember as a kid loving to play with a Jack-In-The-Box

Turn the crank slow (pop goes the weasel) POP IT'D GO

How'd you like to be surprised by GOD – well that's what happens in today's readings

KING DAVID in his throne tells Nathan he'd like to build a temple for God to dwell in

Nathan says YES (*BUT David is about to get a surprise*)

David's whole life had been filled with YES – very rarely was he told NO

Defeats Goliath            Becomes King of Israel

Gets Bathsheba (even after being punished he still gets her)

Rarely told No & Nathan tells him, go ahead, build it.

BUT THEN – Nathan comes back

God says, "Did I ever ask for a house? In all of the exile I dwelt in a tent"

"Not you, but your son will build my temple"

Let's move to the Gospel – where Mary gets a surprise – Mary is to become God's tent

Mary is about to begin the greatest adventure in history – by saying YES

Not Star Wars            Not Lord of the Rings

Nothing compares with the adventure of Mary's – one surprise after another

**An Angel in her bedroom – then her visit to Elizabeth**

**Joseph's Doubts**

**Nativity at Bethlehem**

**Presentation and the prophets Simeon and Anna**

**Exile to Egypt**

**Life at Nazareth (imagine what living with Jesus was like)**

**Jesus' ministry – all of it**

**Biggest surprise Death**

**Bigger one Resurrection, then Pentecost, then the growth of Church ...**

All because she said Yes!

Have we said Yes?    What happens when we say Yes to the Lord?

Marriages    Children are born    Ministries flourish    Lives Change

Mary's Yes brought Christ into the world – **all of us can do the same thing**

How does it happen? - Make Mary's prayer your own

"Let it be done to me according to your word"

Are you ready to accept the surprise that God has in store for YOU?

There is a Godliness IN You

Christ was born in Bethlehem, but He can be born in our hearts.

There is an old book called "The Reed of God"

Empty flute            Usefulness is in the fact they are empty

Empty Chalice

- In Annunciation Mary empties herself, surrenders to God – so can we
- Are you ready for an adventure?
- Are you ready to be surprised by God? -- Say YES