

December 22-23, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

The scene is set, all is ready. Throughout these past weeks, ADVENT has unfolded, the opening 'lines' of a 'presentation' that will consume the remaining days of 2018 and take us through Thanksgiving weekend of 2019. The story, the 'presentation', that will hopefully engage us, is the FRESH recitation of the human life of Jesus of Nazareth and how the people of his time, came to understand and believe him to be the human INCARNATION of God. The story, as shared within Scripture, is NOT new. It is the same as we have heard before. What HAS changed is US...we are another year older, another year more challenged and toughened. From the vantage of US BEING DIFFERENT, how is THIS Christmas different than the ones celebrated before? As we hear of Mary visiting Elizabeth, how have we drawn strength and fresh insights from friends and relatives as we have lived our lives? Who has given us support and guidance? With whom have we grown disappointed? Whom have we had to leave behind lest they entangle us in their worries and woes? Who has left us behind as they have grown in their lives? Have we reflected upon and found peace in these changes? Are we being challenged to embrace new ideas or new situations? To whom do we look NOW for guidance and direction as opposed to those who assisted us one or two years ago? Yes, the scene is set and the characters are the same as every other Christmas...but this is NOT a yada yada yada moment of the same old, same old....this is a FRESH presentation of the EVER ANCIENT-EVER NEW. In a few hours we will gather again...stories of angels, shepherds, mangers and great potential will again be shared. As the EVER ANCIENT-EVER NEW is again given voice and made real in 2018, for what do you wish as THIS Christmas unfolds?

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to you! Thank you for sharing these final days and hours of preparation with our Santa Clara community. To all who contributed for our Christmas Flowers....you are about to see the Church BLOOM with color and life....because of YOU! Thank you for your generosity. I hope you are pleased with this year's efforts, it has been a joy anticipating your enjoyment. Please remember that there is NO morning Mass on Monday, December 24th....but the **Christmas Eve Masses are at 4pm, 6:30pm and 9pm with a single Mass on Tuesday, Christmas Day at 10am.** From Seminarian Cheeyoon, Fr. Seamus, our Pastoral Staff and all whom you allow to serve you here at Santa Clara, may this Christmas be a time of peace, fresh understandings and intriguing possibilities for you and those you love. AND....please remember, you too are loved, each day, each week, each year, rain or shine, night and day. FKB