

“Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage.

Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are.”

St. Augustine of Hippo



**SCRIPTURE
of the DAY**

Micah 5: 1-4

Psalms 79: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Hebrews 10: 5-10

Luke 1: 39-45

In Micah, we hear of this obscure place, Bethlehem-Ephrathah. Even the prophet says the place is too small to be among the clans of Judah. *Yet from here shall come forth, the One who is to be ruler in Israel; and whose origin is from old.*

Then, we are transported to the scene of Mary hastening to visit her cousin, Elizabeth who is with child. The little Judean town where Elizabeth stays is not even named. Two mothers-to-be meet, and the child in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy. Elizabeth recognises the divine life in Mary's womb and she bursts into praise, proclaiming, *'Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?'*

Such is the joy that comes forth when one has the presence of the Lord. And the bearer of the Lord's presence is His Mother. Mary takes the initiative to be of service to her aged cousin. **In essence, Mary is showing us the way.** Christ is going to live his life amongst us when he is incarnated. His will be a birth of poverty ending on death on the Cross. It is not possible to celebrate Christmas without having to think of Christ's Cross and redemption.

In the letter to the Hebrews, the writer says that God is not keen in sacrifices and oblations of animals and he takes no pleasure in holocausts. Instead, God prepares a body for his Son, one that will be offered unconditionally back to the Father.

Here I am, Lord, I come to do your Will. This is what Jesus wants us to imitate Him. To do the Will of the Father, totally and unconditionally. His Mother sets the pace when she answers the angel and says, *'I am the Handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me, according to thy Will.'*

Have we anything to lose? Blessed Christmas, everyone. ✨

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

newbee

22 December 2024
4th Sunday of Advent

**SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF COMMUNION
PARTICIPATION AND MISSION (MATTHEW 5: 13-16).**



**MONTHLY FOCUS
PILGRIMS OF HOPE**

Let It Be Done To Me According To Thy Will

The stage is set. In days to come, the great feast of Christmas will be celebrated. Today's readings bring to light some delightful personalities. First, we have the two babes in the wombs - John the Baptist and Jesus. Then we have their mothers - Elizabeth and Mary. The focus is no longer on John the Baptist and his preaching on repentance.