**Homily for the 4th Sunday of Advent***Rev. Francis D. Kim*

We all dream about something special gifts we hope to find on Christmas morning. What is the best present to you for Christmas? Yes. Jesus Christ Himself who is our Savior is special gift to us. He brought the eternal peace on earth.

Imagine the scene in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. It was the night of nights, yet it had begun as every other night before it. But, it was to become the greatest, most significant night of human history. It was the night when those who lived in darkness would see a great light. It was the night God brought the peace into the world as the angels sing, “Glory to God in the highest, and peace to people on earth!”

During the First World War, on Christmas Eve, the battlefield was strangely quiet. As the soft snow fell, the young soldiers were thinking of home and their families.

Softly one young man began to hum ‘Silent Night.’ Others took up the chorus until the trenches resounded with that Christmas song. When they finished, they were astonished to hear the song echoing from the trenches across no man’s land: in their own tongue, the other soldiers also sang ‘Silent Night.’ There were no enemies, no fights. That night, they were thinking of the Prince of Peace.

How different this world would be if we could unite together around that “Holy Infant so tender and mild.”

This weekend, the birthday of Jesus Christ will be celebrated all over the world. It will be celebrated in various ways, in many languages, by people of all races. For a few hours, many in the world will stop talking of conflicts and wars. For a few hours, they will talk of peace on Earth and goodwill toward men. People will exchange gifts and talk about the peace and love.

Jesus came into the world to save all kinds of people: rich and poor, black and white, educated and illiterate, and everyone in between. Since the first Christmas, God has been telling us that Jesus is the Savior for everyone. No matter who we are, we need Christ. And, no matter what we have done, He loves us and stands ready to welcome us.

Christmas is God’s reminder that we are not alone. God revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus a reconciling love that rescues us from separation and loneliness. God has come down from Heaven to tell us He loves us so much. What a wonderful and glorious hope we have because of that first Christmas!

This Christmas message has not changed in two thousand years. Christmas still reminds us that God is with us, here and now, and forever!

On this last Sunday before Christmas, our thoughts turn again to Mary as she carried Jesus in her womb. Our Gospel reading today recounts the Annunciation to Mary. It is one of the most beloved scenes in the Gospel.

When a young girl said “Yes” to God, a spark of new light entered our world. “I am the handmaid of Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” These few words carried the true light for the world, and a new history of human salvation began. With these few words, God became present in the world like never before. The New Testament began with this Mary’s response.

Mary tells us what we should do for the coming of Jesus. She was willing and eager to do God’s will, even if it seemed difficult or impossible. Are we really willing to say “Yes” to God who wants to come into our life? But, so often, we say, “No.”

Let us never forget why Jesus came into the world. It was to save His people from their sins! It was to save you and me, all of us to give hope and peace!

On this last Sunday of Advent, God gives us grace, and He expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heartfelt trust as Mary did.

When the Lord comes to us, He Himself will fill us with great joy and peace. This eternal peace can never be taken away. Christmas season will be passed by quickly. And, the decorations come down, and the parties come to finish. But, our peace in the Lord never come to an end. Because God will be with us always!

When the Christ Child will be born in our heats, we will know that God is indeed faithful to His promise. Now, the time is at hand. Let us open our hearts. Then, the Savior is coming, and He will be with us always!