

**For a Synodal Church:
Communion, Participation, Mission
Advent 2024**



Reflection for the 4th Sunday of Advent (Year C), 22 December, 2024

Readings

Ist Reading: Micah 5:1-4
Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
*Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10
I am coming to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation: Isaiah 61:1
*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.*

Gospel: Luke 1:38
*I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.*

Reflection

The Fourth Sunday of Advent lifts up again the witness of Mary as first disciple: she who believed in the promises made by God; who said “yes” to God’s life growing inside her; and who brought hope to birth in the world. Mary, Mother of God, is a witness to how love transforms in every way. She sets out on a journey to share this Good News in person, spreading the joy that cannot be contained. So each one of us is called to say “yes” to God’s unique invitation to fullness of life each new year, especially in this *Pilgrims of Hope* Jubilee Year. As we ponder pathways in our hearts, as Mary did, we pray for the peace of Christ to lead us to where we need to be and to who we need to encounter to open our lives even more to God’s newness and delight.

The results of the Synod are entrusted to the Virgin Mary, whose name is also given as *Odigitria*: she who shows and guides the way. As we draw close to the full joy of Christmas, we give thanks for the witness of all faithful men and women who show us the face of Christ, especially when the darkness is deep. We pray we walk in the light of God’s love with hope this year, sure in the faith that we do not walk alone.

Reflection written by Fiona Dyball