

Advent 4C – Children’s program
December 20th, 2009
Luke 1:39-55

Get Ready to Leap for Joy

Are you ready? ARE YOU READY? We have been talking about waiting and waiting for weeks and now the time has come to ask the question, “Are you ready?”

Most of us can’t answer that question without more information. Are we ready for what? Ready for Christmas? Not me, not yet. There’s still a lot of things to do in the next few days for the Christmas services and for making our home ready. I have a message to write and details to plan. I am not packed, I have reservations to make and there are still a few gifts to buy for friends and family. So no - I am not ready for Christmas, not yet.

What else is there to be ready for? Perhaps in hearing from the two unexpected characters Luke tells us about, one a barren old woman and the other an unmarried teenage girl, **we should be ready for just about anything**. Perhaps getting ready, at least getting ready for God, is not so much about preparing for a specific event but rather it is an attitude that sees even the most ordinary person as a vehicle for divine action. Perhaps getting ready for God to be among us, for God to act in our own lives, is best done by forgetting about all the things WE have to do and focusing more on what God has done (and is doing) for us.

We have heard this morning about a beautiful encounter between two ordinary women whom God has chosen to do extraordinary things through. Both of their lives are about to be completely transformed and I highly doubt that either of them is “ready” for all the events that are going to unfold. And yet they **rejoice** in the pregnant potential God has in store for the world. Fetal kicks give birth to “leaps of joy”. The ordinary becomes the vessel for the extraordinary. Their state of “readiness” is more about an attitude of trust, an attitude of faith that believes God is at work in the world to undo the powers that be and to establish a different kind of kingdom.

That coming future, that promise of God to establish a reign of justice for all people, elicits the same kind of transformative leap of joy today. All of us are ordinary people. Simple folks, trying to make our way in the world from day to day. We try to get ready for the challenges that face us. Challenges at work, at school, at home, among our family. We know deep down that there is much about us that is far from perfect, much about us we would like to change.

And yet from God’s viewpoint, every one of us has the potential for extraordinary things. God calls each of us to help birth new possibilities of joy and love in a world that often only knows pain and suffering. God uses anyone and everyone, including a childless old woman and an unmarried pregnant teenager, to make the world ready for love to come down. Are you ready? Are you ready for God to use you? Are you ready to cry out with a joyful shout that the God of your heart is Great? Are you ready for God to work great things, even through the smallest of things? Trust and have faith. Believe that God can do all things, including turning the whole world around. Amen.