



Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 21, 2025

Theme: RNDM Mission: Presence of Hope

As advent reaches its final week, the Church invites us into a quiet, intimate moment. He does not ask us to understand everything. He asks us to trust like Joseph, to welcome Him like Mary, to believe his promise like Isaiah and to prepare our hearts like the psalmist.

Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

https://youtu.be/7xtpJ4Q_Q-4?si=j3MdPkHtOo1jORpB

Reflection

Isaiah 7:10-14: The prophet Isaiah announces a sign to a discouraged people; “the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel.” This is God’s assurance that the people has not been abandoned. Even in their fear, God promises a future filled with God’s Presence. Advent reminds us that God’s promise is never empty. God comes when we least expect.

Psalms 24: The psalm invites us to prepare our hearts: “let the king of glory come in!” To welcome the God, we need “clean hands and pure hearts.” It’s not about perfection, but about openness; making room for God by clearing away the noise and distractions that keep God out.

Romans 1:17: Paul reminds us that this good news is not just history, it is meant for us, “we are called to belong to Jesus Christ”. It reminds us that Christmas is not just about His birth in Bethlehem, but about His birth in our lives today.

Matthew 1:18-24: Shows Joseph’s struggle, fear and faith. Joseph finds himself in a painful and confusing situation. Mary whom he loves is with child, and not through him. Yet Joseph chooses mercy over anger, compassion over pride. Before even God speaks to him, Joseph already chose gentleness. Then in the silence of the night, God speaks: “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife..... the child is from the holy spirit”. He awakens and without argument, without delay he obeys.

As RNDMs, called to be a “Presence of Hope,” we are reminded that God often works through unexpected events—moments that may feel complicated, confusing, or overwhelming. We encounter these moments in the lives of the poor, victims of human trafficking, young mothers, the elderly, the differently-abled, refugees, and in many other situations within our ministries. Yet when we allow God to enter these moments, they become the birthplace of grace.

God enters our lives quietly, just as the angel came to Joseph in a dream. He speaks to us in gentle ways—through silence, prayer, a worry, a friend, a community member, or even through hardship. Advent calls us to listen and to trust, even when we do not fully understand. We are invited to walk into uncertainty with courage and to believe that God is at work, even when we cannot yet see how.



Hymn: Make Me a Servant, Humble and Meek

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6U8O_WnPZY&list=RDr6U8O_WnPZY&start_radio=1

Prayer

Lord Jesus, as Christmas approaches, help us to be like Joseph; open, trusting and courageous. Enter the quiet places of our hearts and fill them with your peace. Help us to bring hope to the world, and May we welcome you as Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

By Sylvia Onyain RNDM [Tanzania]