

Hello,

Happy Fourth Sunday of Advent! The theme of this fourth Sunday is Peace. As we near the celebration of our Lord's birth, we're reminded both of the peacefulness of the dead of night when he was born, and also of his mission to bring peace on earth. I pray that you may find time in these last few days before Christmas for quiet and stillness and peace in God's presence.

Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Hans".

Fr. Hans

December 20th — The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke 1: 26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?”

And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.”

Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”

Then the angel departed from her.

Questions for Reflection:

- What would it be like to be “full of grace”?
- For what reasons would Mary have been greatly troubled?
- How would I react if an angel appeared to me?
- Am I able to say “May it be done to me according to your word” without knowing exactly where that “blank check” will lead?