

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent – our final moments in the season that has called us to become more and more attentive to the signs of God’s promise and God’s presence in our lives. Advent has invited us to deepen our time of quiet waiting, with hope, with joy and with openness to surprise.

And today’s readings are no exception as we hear the prophet Micah tell the people of his day that the One who will redeem and save them will come from a little town called Bethlehem – a town that had no clout, no prestige, no power. Luke’s gospel passage tells a similar story. It is the story of Mary and Elizabeth, two women who carry life within them, but in their world, in their time they had no authority, no rights, no power. Yet it is from this most commonplace town and through these most ordinary women that God has chosen to reveal God’s saving power.

What meaning might these Scriptures hold for us today? Let us take a few moments of quiet and enter the silence of our hearts, reflecting on the following questions: How has this Advent preparation helped me to see God’s presence in the ordinary, everyday events of my life? What difference has this made in my life? Where in my life today is God inviting me to bring good news to a neighbor, a family member, a co-worker, a friend? Let us take a moment of communal silence to hold this in our hearts as a community of faith, bonded in our Advent time of waiting.

May these final days of Advent be a time of our becoming a people who know God’s presence in the most ordinary events of our lives. May we proclaim this life-giving presence of Emmanuel, God-with-us, today.