

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

December 14, 2020

Association Minister Message

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IMPOSSIBLE...POSSIBLE. The scriptures for the Fourth Sunday of Advent are about the *IMPOSSIBLE* becoming *POSSIBLE*. In 2 Samuel 7, King David established his monarchy by overcoming rivalries, other claimants to the throne, enemies within the nation and enemy nations. The shepherd boy becomes the shepherd of a nation. When David settled in his palace, the prophet Nathan visits him with a message from God, as prophets were the spokespersons for God. David realized that he lived in a palace but *“But the ark of God stays in a tent.” vs. 2.*

The Ark of Covenant being visible to the Hebrews was important for they believed God resided in the Ark. The issue for the Hebrews was whenever enemies captured the Ark of the Covenant, they believed God was no longer with them. When the Hebrew people finally affirmed God’s presence everywhere, they would believe God did not abandon them and would be with them wherever they were. David wanted to build the Temple, a permanent, grand *“palace”* for the Ark. but it was his son Solomon who oversaw its construction in approximately 1000 BCE. It was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE. The second Temple was built in 516 BCE and in 70 CE it was destroyed by the Romans. The Hebrews again had to deal with abandonment issues and rediscovered God is with them in all conditions of life.

We are struggling to understand, during this time of pandemic, God with us, God in us and God through us. We do miss our gatherings for worship and being together in one place. Christmas worship services will not be as usual this year. As the Hebrew people experienced God everywhere in the Creation and God did not abandon them, God is with us, too. What is *IMPOSSIBLE* (God in a place) soon becomes *POSSIBLE* (God everywhere).

Mary and her cousin Elizabeth (John the Baptist’s mother) were miracle mothers-to-be. Elizabeth would give birth *“in her old age”* and Mary was a teenager. The surprise of both births was declared by the angel, *“Nothing is IMPOSSIBLE for God.”* What in your life has been *IMPOSSIBLE* that became a miracle—*POSSIBLE*—that has blessed you and blessed others through your gifts and graces? How do we make *POSSIBLE* the gifts of hope, peace, love and joy in relationships to others and care of the Creation?

Christmas is more than a day, for it is the *“gift that keeps on giving”* love that confirms life filled with meaning and purpose. God, Emmanuel, is with us wherever we are. No hiding from God and God is not hidden from us. The *POSSIBLE* changes us and *“For nothing will be IMPOSSIBLE with God.”* Believe and act with unconditional love with *BLESSINGS ALWAYS.*