Homily for the 4th Sunday of Advent(12/22/2019)

Rev. Francis Kim

A little boy said to his uncle the first time he saw him after Christmas, “Thanks for the electric guitar you gave me for Christmas. It’s the best present I ever got.”

“That’s great,” said his uncle. “Do you know how to play it?”

“Oh, I don’t play it,” the little fellow said. “My mom gives me a dollar a day not to play it during the day, and my dad gives me five dollars a week not to play it at night. What a great present!”

We all dream about something special gifts we hope to find on Christmas morning. What is the best present to you for Christmas? Yes. Jesus Christ Himself who is our Savior is special gift to us. He brought the eternal peace and true light on earth.

In a few days, the birthday of Jesus Christ will be celebrated all over the world. It will be celebrated in various ways, in many languages, by people of all races. For a few hours many in the world will stop talking of conflicts and wars. For a few hours they will talk of peace on Earth and goodwill toward men. People will exchange gifts and talk about love.

Jesus came into the world to save all kinds of people: rich and poor, black and white, educated and illiterate, and everyone in between. Since the first Christmas, God has been telling us that He is with us always. No matter who we are, we need Christ. And, no matter what we have done, He loves us and stands ready to welcome us.

Over a century ago, a man called Phillips Brooks was in Jerusalem for Christmas. Later he spent some time on the hillside looking out toward Bethlehem, which is about five miles south of Jerusalem.

He realized that Christ is present not just in the grand Church or beautiful liturgies, but wherever Christians gather. Then, he composed the familiar carol, ‘O little town of Bethlehem … in thy dark street shine the everlasting light.”

Our homes and families are like Bethlehem. There is no place too small, too dark, and no life too troubled where the Lord cannot come.

Christmas is God’s reminder that we are not alone. God has come down from Heaven to tell us He loves us. What a wonderful and glorious hope we have because of that first Christmas!

So, “Do not be afraid.” That’s all. With these, repeated again and again by the angel Gabriel, our hope of heaven was born. Angel Gabriel would utter these words again, telling Mary, “Do not be afraid,” for she has found favor with God.

After Jesus’ birth, these same words would be used to beckon the shepherds to come in from the fields, following the light of the star, to adore at the Christ child’s manger.

These same words are spoken to us each time when we face life’s challenges, difficult decisions, or even our own sinfulness. Jesus being born among us means we no longer have to be afraid, either to live or to die, no matter what happen for He is truly ‘Emmanuel’ ‘God is with us.’

This Christmas message has not changed in two thousand years. Christmas still reminds us that God is with us, here and now, and forever!

Let us never forget why Jesus came into the world. It was to save His people from their sins! It was to save you and me, all of us to give hope and peace!

When the Lord comes to us, He Himself will fill us with great joy and peace. This eternal peace can never be taken away.

Christmas season will be passed by quickly. And, the decorations come down, and the parties come to finish. But, our peace in the Lord never come to an end. Because God will be with us always!