

# SERMON NOTES

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year A \* December 21, 2025

Sermon by the Reverend Tom Rutherford

Isaiah 7:10-16 \* Psalm 80 \* Romans 1:1-7 \* Matthew 1:18-25

## Joseph Moments

### Matthew 1:18-25

Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Because Joseph was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel," which means "God with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel commanded and took Mary home as his wife, but he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son.

And he gave him the name Jesus.

✦ When we have a Joseph Moment...

## Christmas Lessons

Isaiah 9:2-7 \* Psalm 96 \* Titus 2:11-14 \* Luke 2:1-20

## Next Week's Lessons

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 \* Psalm 147 \* Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 \* John 1:1-18

# Chewing on Our Daily Bread

Questions for conversation in your family, a Home Group, or with a friend

1. When Joseph found out his fiancée Mary was pregnant, he was shocked, disappointed, and ready to break off their engagement. What has happened in your life that rocked your world and may have prompted you to consider doing something that would have altered the course of your life? How did it turn out?
2. As Joseph considered what to do, an angel appeared to him in a dream to assure him Mary's story was true – that this baby was from God – and encouraged him to marry her. Share a time God did something in your life that seemed impossible or unbelievable, and how you responded.
3. One of Jesus' names is "Immanuel" which means "God with us." How have you felt God with you recently?
4. When Joseph woke up from his dream, he did what the angel told him. Tell about a time you felt the Lord nudge you to do something. Did you do it? Or not? And how did it turn out?
5. PRAY:
  - ✦ Thanking God for the times in your life he did something miraculous.
  - ✦ Thanking God for being with you always.
  - ✦ For grace to do what God commands.
  - ✦ For any needs in your group.