

Grace Devotion

Week of December 1, 2024

Pastor Fred Young

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Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah* took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do 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 as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;* and he named him Jesus.

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Sunday, December 1, 2024, is not only the first Sunday in Advent, but is the first day of the Church Year. The Christian Church year has three cycles, A, B, and C and we are entering into Year C in 2024. We also are beginning our Advent Series, *Faces at the Manger*. Today we will light the Joseph Candle in our Advent wreath.

Not much is known about Jesus' earthly father, Joseph. However, we do know that he was a carpenter by trade, and was several years older than his betrothed, Mary. He was from Nazareth and could trace his lineage back to King David. He was the biological father of Jesus' siblings and died well before Jesus began his ministry.

The popular 15th Century German Carol, "Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear", word's are beautiful when read as a poem:

Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear

“Gentle Joseph, Joseph dear,
stay with me, for the baby’s near;
God will surely your goodness hear,
as you will love this newborn child,” says Mary.

“Gladly Mary, Mary, mine, I will cradle the child divine;
Here will heaven and earth combine,
For you will bear God’s child, O dearest Mary.”

“Peace to all and God’s good-will,”
heaven and earth with this song will fill;
Soon will God, in the evening still,
Be born in Bethlehem, the child of Mary.

May we have the same compassion and understanding as Joseph when we recognize our role as followers of Christ. Happy Advent!

PRAYER: Live giving God, give us the courage of Joseph and trust and hope in our journey with you. Amen.

Blessings!
Pastor Fred



Artwork by Kara Young

December 1, 2024
1st Sunday of Advent

Welcome/Announcements

Westminster Chimes and Prelude

**Song: “Joseph’s Lullaby” #22

** Call to Worship

Lector: We gather together, hearts filled with anticipation for this Advent season.

Congregation: We are ready to worship in fellowship.

Lector: During this Advent season we focus on the nostalgia of familiarity.

Congregation: Yet, we remain open to the unexpected ways God moves among us.

Lector: Help us to notice those who rest in the shadows of the season,

Congregation: Let us honor their faithfulness and their quiet courage

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)

Ever present God, as we enter this season of Advent, help us to recognize those who stand steadfast in the background—just as Joseph did. May we learn from his trust and humility. In this season of waiting, let us open our hearts to the often-overlooked and together we worship God who sees and uplifts all. Amen

**Lighting of the Advent Candle

** Hymn: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” #123

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

Thank you for sharing your tithes and offerings

** Doxology #625

** Prayer of Dedication

Joy and Concerns

Praying for Others

Lord’s Prayer

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

** Apostles Creed

Hymn: “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” #124

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 25:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Special Music: Deb Zumburum

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “Joseph”

** Song: “Glory (Let There Be Peace)” #23

** Final Blessing

Please remain standing to sing “A Choral Benediction”
Postlude

*On the screen ** Please stand, if you are able.

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Portions of today's worship elements have been taken from the following:
Shepherd, J. Barrie. *Faces at the Manger*, Upper Room Books, Nashville,
Tennessee, 1992, pp. 48-59.
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Announcements

~Thank you Deb Zumbrum for sharing your special talent with us today.
~December Collections: Mitten Tree

Upcoming Events

Advent Season Series:

December 1st: Joseph
December 8th: Shepherds
December 15th: Mary
December 22nd: Angels

Christmas Eve Services:

3pm @ Trinity Gettysburg
5:30pm @ Grace UCC
8pm @ Trinity Gettysburg

Financial Information

General pledge November: 2024: \$7,836.00
General pledge November: 2023: \$8,021.50
YTD income: \$193,876.53
YTD expenses: \$232,619.70
YTD deficit: \$38,743.17



Grace United Church of Christ
100 Fourth Street
Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331
717-632-1146

Worship Leader: Amy Fawks
Lector: Ireland O'Donnell, Ellie Fawks
Organist and Music Director: Christian Keller
Head Usher:



Matthew 1:18-25

Z	T	F	K	W	A	N	G	E	L	L	F
E	V	E	C	O	N	C	E	I	V	E	D
X	U	Q	E	M	M	A	N	U	E	L	I
A	P	J	O	S	E	P	H	T	D	T	R
M	L	O	R	D	W	M	S	P	E	Z	I
P	R	P	V	D	Q	I	I	H	W	M	F
L	L	E	S	Y	R	V	P	C	W	A	L
E	R	O	V	H	J	O	I	Z	I	R	S
A	E	P	C	C	R	E	W	R	P	Y	R
X	W	L	P	P	A	I	S	B	G	Q	U
W	H	E	G	Q	N	L	P	U	Q	I	L
N	O	T	P	E	W	Q	Z	V	S	B	N

Jesus
Example
People

Christ
Angel
Prophet

Mary
Lord
Virgin

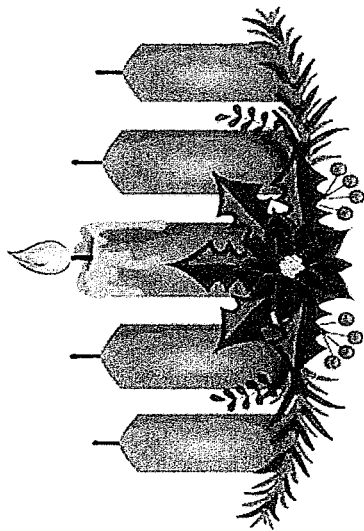
Joseph
Conceived
Emmanuel

ADVENT

Z S P T X V S D U J M D X V E P K W Q C E D V O
W X I A Q O C N G J S C N L X L G Y Z Z B K V I
S O V J A F E L L P I C E M I H P J T E L G V E A Q H
T H N P A Y R E J O I K I O E A O A U M Y O J Z X P Z
S V X P S D R N Z Q L K V G C C U N S B V A V A W
T Z I S Q Q A C Q Q H R A M A B Q K O V V J M D V
P M M T C B M A P M I R C B G N L W Q H A W K T N
A C M T C B M A P M I R C B G N L W Q H A W K T N
B J N C D L A S U R E J E P X D V A S X T X X J G
E V M E L A S U R E J E P X D V A S X T X X J G
H T B A C B Q J I L Y P B Z U N X H V Z N U Z H R
N P H A K U U C H E X Q P P D U S I A Q Z V S U O G Z X
O D H H P I Y L E B Y D U S I A Q Z V S U O G Z X
J G T Q Z L I A H A I A S I A Q Z V S U O G Z X
A Z E Q S Z B D Q T Q L O J O R O S V O G Z X
A T D L A F T R C B G K H Z Y C L M A I S Q B D
N F V B B G U T Q F X P Z R S R B N N J E R U G
S J E J A S C O E F R G D Z I X A D B Q P X Z B
T T O M L S Y S Z F E V J Q W N M O T H B C I
H G N I R A P E R P N J P H W L D E R U K B T I

ADVENT	COMING	ELIZABETH	EMMANUEL
ISAIAH	JERUSALEM	JOHN THE BAPTIST	JOSEPH
MARY	PREPARING	REJOICE	REPENT

WAITING



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT