

Sermon Series: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
"Emmanuel – God With Us"
by Rev. John C. Tittle

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 1:18-25* NRSV

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But 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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill 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." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What verse particularly jumped out at you? Why?
2. If you could choose your own name, and it had to be different than the one you have, what would it be? Why?
3. Do you dream much? Do you think God speaks through dreams? How do you know if it is God or not? Does God speak and work through angels?
4. What do you think Joseph's initial thought was when Mary broke the news that she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit? What would have done?
5. Joseph is described as a "just man" or a "man of principle." How do you see that at work in this passage?
6. What were the two names that the angel said Mary's child was to be called? Why were the names "Jesus" and "Emmanuel" chosen?
7. The angel shared that the child "is from the Holy Spirit." How was the Spirit at work in Jesus throughout his life?
8. Joseph didn't talk in the gospels, but he listened a lot and also acted. Why do you think Mary speaks in the gospels, but not Joseph?
9. In what ways have you experienced Jesus as Emmanuel—God with us? In what ways have you experienced Jesus as Savior of our sins?