

Welcome to First & Faith United Methodist Church

Sermon Notes - December 12, 2021

Third Sunday In Advent

“An Unlikely Hero”

Matthew 1:18-25 (NLT)

¹⁸ This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. ²⁰ As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet: ²³ “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Life Application:

- 1) What situation do you need to trust God with?
- 2) How is the Holy Spirit leading you?
- 3) Be still and listen to what God is saying to your heart.

Prayer: Loving God, may this Advent Season remind us to stop and ponder things in our hearts. Like Joseph, you remind us that you are close when our hopes and dreams for the future don’t always turn out as we planned. You are never far away when we face heartache and sorrow. Thank you for walking before us to lead us, behind us to encourage us and beside us to comfort us as we obediently follow you. O Emmanuel, we anxiously await your return. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

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