

COURAGE CAN'T WAIT

December 18, 2022

Preaching: Michael Swartzentruber, Senior Minister



MATTHEW 1:18-25

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.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. This week's Advent theme is "courage." Think of a moment in your life that required courage. What happened? What did you learn?
3. What does courage mean? How do you grow courage in your life?
4. In what ways did Joseph exhibit (or not exhibit) courage?
5. One of South Elkhorn's values is "courageous conversation." What are some courageous conversations you've had or need to have in the weeks (or new year) ahead?

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