

# WELCOME Christmas

Welcome Christmas

South Sub Church

December 7, 2025

## Peace in the Promise

### Matthew 1:18-25 (NLT)

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: <sup>23</sup> "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.'" <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

### Sermon Summary:

**Welcome Christmas** is a five-week Advent journey through Matthew's telling of Christ's birth, inviting you to encounter Jesus who fulfills every promise God ever made. Each week opens a new doorway into the wonder of His coming. From a genealogy filled with longing, to a frightened carpenter learning to trust, to outsiders led by a star, to a family protected by God's unshakeable love, Matthew shows us that Christmas is far more than a story. It's the arrival of God's faithfulness in human flesh. Let this season awaken your heart to *welcome Christmas* like never before.

### Ice Breaker Questions:

1. Have you ever received unexpected news that completely changed your plans? How did you respond?
2. What does "peace" mean to you in the middle of a stressful situation?
3. Can you think of a time when someone's guidance or advice helped you feel calm or confident?
4. Share about a time that you had to trust God without fully understanding the plan?

### Scripture Study Questions:

1. According to verse 18, who was Mary engaged to when she became pregnant?
2. How is Mary's pregnancy described in verse 18?
3. What was Joseph's initial reaction when he learned of Mary's pregnancy in verse 19?
4. Why did Joseph consider divorcing Mary quietly, according to verse 19?

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5. What does verse 20 say appeared to Joseph in a dream?
6. What reason did the angel give Joseph for not being afraid to take Mary as his wife?
7. According to verse 21, what name was Joseph told to give the child?
8. What meaning is given for the name Jesus in verse 21?
9. Which Old Testament prophecy is mentioned in verse 23, and what does it predict?
10. What actions did Joseph take after waking from the dream, as described in verse 24-25?

### Interpretive Questions:

1. Why do you think Matthew emphasizes that Mary was found to be pregnant “through the Holy Spirit” rather than by human means?
2. Why was the angel’s reassurance important for Joseph in terms of his role in God’s plan?
3. How does the angel’s instruction to name the child “Jesus” connect to His mission and identity?
4. What does Joseph’s obedience to the angel tell us about trust and faith in God’s guidance?
5. How does the fulfillment of this prophecy in Jesus’ birth show God’s faithfulness to His promises?

### Application Questions:

1. How can we find peace in situations that seem uncertain or confusing, as Joseph did when he learned of Mary’s pregnancy?
2. What can we learn from Joseph about responding with obedience rather than fear when God calls us to act?
3. How can we cultivate peace in our relationships when faced with situations that might initially feel unfair or troubling?
4. How does remembering God’s faithfulness, as seen in the fulfillment of prophecy, help you experience peace in your own life?
5. What practical steps can you take this week to act in faith and obedience, trusting God’s plan, so that His peace can guide your decisions?