

DECEMBER 4, 2022  
10:30 AM

# THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

THE "WHO" OF CHRISTMAS  
MATTHEW 1:18-25



Today, Matthew tells us that Jesus is Immanuel (God with us) and he would be born of the virgin Mary. This passage helps us answer the extremely important detail, the extremely important detail... the "who" of Christmas. God sent us Jesus. The perfect savior. His only son. Immanuel. God with us. And he accomplished salvation for us!

## Welcome and Announcements

## Call to Worship

*Psalm 66:1-2*

## Songs of Praise

*TBD*

## Confession of Faith

*New City Catechism #49*

*Q. Where is Christ now?*

*A. Christ rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling his kingdom and interceding for us, until he returns to judge and renew the whole world.*

## Offering

[Click to give online](#)

*Please prayerfully consider an online offering*

## Song of Declaration

*TBD*

## Advent Reading - *The Joseph Candle*

*Matthew 1:20-23*

*Reading by Mike and Jay Fawcett and Family*

## Confession of Sin

*Gracious God, we confess that we have longed too much for the comforts of this world. We have loved the gifts more than the giver. In your mercy, help us to see that all the things we pine for are shadows, but you are substance; that they are quicksands, but you are mountain; that they are shifting, but you are anchor. We plead your forgiveness on the merits of Jesus Christ. Accept his worthiness for our unworthiness, his sinlessness for our transgressions, his fullness for our emptiness, his glory for our shame, his righteousness for our dead works, his death for our life. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

## Assurance of Pardon

*Romans 8:1*

## Children's Message

## Sermon - *The "Who" of Christmas*

Sermon Scripture - [Matthew 1:18-25](#)

## Promise

- What is the theme of Matthew? How does this passage fit?

- ◊ [Matthew 1:20-23](#)

- **What two reasons does Joseph have to believe the angel in this passage?**
  - ◊ 1 Corinthians 2:12-14
  - ◊ Genesis 3:15
  - ◊ Isaiah 7:14
  - ◊ Isaiah 9
  - ◊ Micah 5:1-2
- **What two names are given? What do each mean?**

## Meaning

- **How do John 1:1-2 and Philippians 2:6-8 help us understand the meaning of Immanuel?**
  - ◊ Isaiah 7
- **How is the incarnation an invasion?**
- **How is Christ coming to earth more difficult than we could ever imagine?**
  - ◊ *"...we have never fully tasted or sensed how sinful sin is because it is normal to us. Jesus, by contrast, saw how abnormal, distorting, ugly, deeply rebellious it really is. Nor have we tasted weakness or need to the extent the strong and rich son of God did. Nor have we felt as sorrowful as the Lord Jesus, nor experienced shame the way he did, all in his perfectly holy humanity" - Derek Thomas*

## Significance

- **Was Jesus the only possible savior?**
  - ◊ John 14:6
- **Why did Jesus need to be human?**
  - ◊ Hebrews 2:14-15
- **Why did Jesus need to be divine?**
  - ◊ Hebrews 10:4

## Communion

## Song of Response

TBD

## Benediction

1. Why is it so easy to forget who and what Christmas is really about?
2. Do you believe it was difficult for Joseph to accept what the angel told him ([Matthew 1:20-21](#))?
3. How does [John 1:1-2](#) and [Philippians 2:6-8](#) help us understand the idea of Immanuel (God with us) better?
4. How would you respond to the question, did Jesus have to be the savior?
5. Do you think people focus more on the divine or human nature of Christ? Why?
6. How does Jesus being the savior offer assurance to us?