

ROCKY RIVER CHURCH
THE GOD WHO CAME NEAR
ADVENT: WEEK #2 – CANDLE OF PEACE
HIDDEN CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 7, 2025
JIMMY BRITT, LEAD PASTOR

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 as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

SEVEN ACTION STEPS TO BRING THE PEACE OF GOD INTO YOUR LIFE:

#1. Invite God into _____.

“Joseph... was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.” -Matthew 1:19

“As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him...” -Matthew 1:20

#2. Let God's Word speak into _____.

"Joseph, son of David..." -Matthew 1:20

"All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet..." -Matthew 1:22

"...you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." -Matthew 1:21

☐ **Jesus** means "The Lord Saves."

#3. Stop letting fear _____.

"Do not be afraid..." -Matthew 1:20

**#4. _____ as Lord and Savior
(He is not a self-improvement plan).**

*"And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
-Matthew 1:20*

#5. Practice the _____.

"...they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" -Matthew 1:23

#6. Say "yes" to God's _____ for your life.

"...he did as the angel of the Lord commanded..." -Matthew 1:24

#7. Choose peace by _____.

MEMORY VERSE

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." -John 14:27

