

Reflection

"Who Is This Joseph?"

Silence for Personal Reflection

Receiving God's Tithes and Offerings:

Offertory

***Response:**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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*Prayer of Thanksgiving: Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to render to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you, not with our lips only, but with our whole lives, turning the duties, the sorrows, and the joys of all our days into a living sacrifice to you; through our Savior Jesus Christ who taught us to pray:

***Lord's Prayer #895**

in Unison

***Closing Hymn, UMH #230**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

***Blessing:**

One: Loving God, your Church awaits the coming of Jesus

All: who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of our ignorance.

One: You gave Joseph a big "if" to which he said, "yes!"

All: We want to say "yes" to the "IFs" you present to us too.

***Commissioning:**

One: Let us go to prepare the way for Jesus!

All: Jesus, we await your arrival! Let us receive you!

***Postlude**

Prayer Requests & Celebrations:

(12/3): Family & Friends of Steve Denson, Janet Wright, Larry Clark, Anna Barker, Clara O'Brien, Ronnie Harris

(11/26): Mark Covington, Bobby Mabe, David Price, Jim Fields, Family & Friends of Ivan Handy, Family & Friends of Ronald van Eaton

(11/19): Family & Friends of Billy Price, Lucie Joyner, Family & Friends of Billy Walker

Homebound & Extended Care: Johnnie Crumpler, Janet Smith, Ben Alley, Juanita Southern, Linda Southern, Maci Butner, Carlene Cooper, Charlie Bullard, Xander Griffin

FLAT ROCK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2017**

*A mission statement will go here in the summer of 2018.
There will be more information in January about the Vision Task Force for
all those interested in participating in the process!*

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

**-THIS SYMBOL INDICATES FOR YOU TO STAND, IF ABLE*

*We ask you, please, to silence or shut down your mobile devices during Worship. Thank you!
Throughout the service, the kneeling rail is open to you
if you feel called to prayer or meditation with God in this way.*

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Prelude & Lighting the Candles

Choral Introit, UMH #250

“Once in Royal David’s City”
Congregation may join in the singing.

*Hymn of Praise, UMH #211 (vs. 4-7)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*Greeting:

One: All generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations.

All: **And from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations.**

One: And from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

All: **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.**

*Sung Response:

Glor - - - - -ri—a! In excelsis deo!

Glor - - - - -ri—a! In excelsis deo!

*Prayer

One: O God, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the spouse of his mother: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands; through Jesus who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

All: **Amen.**

*The Peace:

From St. Matthew 1:24

One: When Joseph woke from his sleep, he did as the angel commanded him;

All: **He took Mary as his wife.**

One: In his obedience, Joseph found peace. The peace of Jesus be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

Hymn of Prayer, UMH #204

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Our Gathered Community & Beyond

Sharing of Joys

Sharing of Concerns

Silent Prayer

Pastor’s Prayer

Anthem

“Wonderful Name: Wonderful Counselor”

Contemporary Lesson:

N. T. Wright

Well-known problems abound. Why does the genealogy finish with Joseph if Matthew is going to say that he wasn’t after all Jesus’ father? This cannot have been a problem for Matthew, or he would hardly have followed the genealogy so closely with the story of the virginal conception. It was enough that Jesus was born into the Davidic family; adoption brought legitimation.

Canticle of Light & Darkness, UMH #205

sung response 2

*Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew:

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place 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. He husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took Mary as his wife.

Response to the Lessons:

One: Let us hear what the Spirit is speaking to the Church.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn of Faith, TFWS #2090 (vs. 2)

“Light the Advent Candle”