

Sunday, December 21st, 2025
Sermon Series: “The Weary World Rejoices.”
(Advent, 2025)
Matthew 1.18-23

The Birth of Christ...The Greatest Gift is Coming...

The Gift of Hope!

Isaiah 7.14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

The _____ of Darkness Threatens Our Hope.

Matthew 1.18-19 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

*Psalms 23.4 Even though I walk through the valley of the **shadow of death**, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

שְׁלֵמָה (šāl·mā·nē): Lit., “Death shadow” (Deep Darkness)

God’s _____ Has Come to Give Us Hope.

Matthew 1.20-23 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us)

John 1.4-5 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

(Answers: Presence. Presence.)