

Then God Said...The Birth of Jesus Christ

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in 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. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;^[i] and he named him Jesus. *Matthew 1:18-25*

Merry Christmas from the staff, members, and friends of Community Church of the Verdes. We pray that you will have a wonderful and meaningful Christmas even in the midst of the challenges of this time. *God is with us!*

Please join us in person for worship on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. or 9 p.m. To keep us all healthy, however, please register beforehand with judy@verdefaith.org, indicating which service you will attend. You may also join us on line for either service at www.verdefaith.org, clicking on the live stream service. The service may be seen live or at any time on Christmas Day!