



Joseph and Mary

When was Jesus born? Well, no one knows for sure. It was most likely not December 25th, however, I grant it that you have a 1/365 shot that it was. The reason it was probably not this day is because the Bible says there were shepherds in the fields watching over their flocks and that would have been very unlikely in the middle of winter.

The selection of December 25 actually came from the Roman holiday called Saturnalia, a pagan birthday celebration of the unconquered sun god. Saturnalia began on December 19 each year, which, in the northern hemisphere, is when the days begin to get longer, and continued with seven days of wild partying leading up to the final day of the celebration, the 25th. Many of our current Christmas customs have beginnings in Saturnalia: parades, eating, special music, gift-giving, green trees, and lighted candles. As Christianity spread throughout the Roman empire, the pagan holiday was given a makeover with a Christian spin. In 336 A.D., Emperor Constantine declared Christ's birthday an official Roman holiday.

There are many aspects of the birth of Jesus that are interesting to study. For now, consider the parents of the Christ-child, Joseph and Mary. Over time, the history of Joseph and Mary has been romanticized. In art, they are often pictured with mystic expressions and halos around their heads. But they were two people, just like you and me. Joseph was a carpenter, and Mary a young girl with a simple background. They were pretty plain people, that is except for their faith was anything but plain; it was extraordinary.

The lives of this young couple were changed when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary with the announcement that she would bear a son. This had huge implications, the first being that Joseph almost divorced Mary over the news of her pregnancy. Joseph must have wrestled with confusion and heartache when he heard that Mary was carrying a child that was not his.

Luke 1:27 tells us that Mary was engaged to Joseph, which was considered the same as marriage at that time and could only be broken by a divorce. Keep in mind that the couple was not living together yet and had no intimate relations, and would not until after Jesus was born. He, like any future husband, was looking forward to the day when they would begin living together as man and wife. Joseph knew the quality of Mary's character, so he must have been completely astounded and heartbroken to hear the news that she was pregnant.

Joseph had two options. He could make her a public example by charging her with adultery in a public court that would ruin her reputation forever, or he could come quietly before two or three witnesses and write a bill of divorce and end their relationship without anyone needing to know all the details. Joseph decided on option two. Thankfully, Joseph did not have to be burdened with his thoughts long because he learned in a dream that Mary indeed was pregnant with the Son of God and that she was conceived by the Holy Spirit as prophesied in Isaiah. God used two humble servants, Joseph and Mary, to raise the Son of God.

God continues to use humble servants today to introduce Jesus to the world. We give thanks each Christmas for the greatest gift ever given – Jesus.

Mark

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Arlington Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

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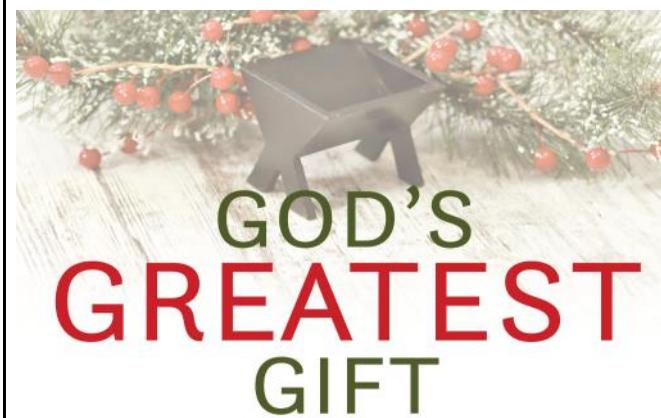
Website: www.arlingtonchurchofchrist.org



Find us on:
Arlington Friends
Arlington Church of Christ Youth Group

Welcome

We pray you will be encouraged and uplifted
as we join together in worship.



Knoxville Christian School

is in serious need of financial help. Today has been set aside as a day of giving for area churches of Christ to participate. If you would like to give you can either make a check to the school and mail it, give it to Mark, or you can donate on-line at www.kcsknights.org

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Elders

Mark Brackney Ph: 622-0376
Leland Price Ph: 925-4424
Danny Rider Ph: 705-9713
Wayne Shannon Ph: 742-0517
Gregg Summers Ph: 223-4515

Deacons

Jason McDougal - YPYF/Vacation Bible School
Bud Norris - Worship Participants
Keith Tatum - Education/Picture Board/Family Camp
Ronnie Weldon - Attendance/Communion Prep/Bldg

Minister: Mark Brackney Ph: 523-1764

Secretaries: Becky Johnson Jennifer Tatum

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley - WEI
Tommy Drinnen - Hope Central

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY

@10:30

Opening Prayer	Ray Buttrey
Communion	Gregg Summers
Security	Bill Gilliam
"	Randy Riggs

Happy Birthday!!



Dec 15	London Debusk
Dec 18	Helen Monroe
Dec 19	Heather Percell
Dec 19	Dawson Daulton



Family Matters



Online
Bible Study

We continue
to have our
Sunday night
Bible study at
6 p.m. and **Wednesday** night
Bible study at 7 pm via Zoom.

**CHANGE
OF
PLANS**

Due to the rapid increase of COVID-19 cases in our area and the drop in our worship attendance, we have gone back to one worship assembly at our original time of 10:30 a.m.

We are encouraging all of our seniors and those at high risk for this virus to stay home for now and utilize our virtual live stream.

We ask that those coming to the building wear a mask when entering and exiting as well as during the worship time. The seating will be first come, first serve, so there will not be assigned seating. Every other row will be marked off and we ask people to keep six feet of space between their family unit and others where you sit. We appreciate your patience as we continue to make adjustments to aid our worship and time together. There is no nursery or children's Bible hour for now. All children will remain with their parents.

A handout for children to take kid sermon notes along with a treat is located at the back of the auditorium where the communion is located. Please take an individual communion cup/wafer as you enter. A contribution box is also located there.



Arlington Family:

David Giles is scheduled for a biopsy this Wed., the 16th and surgery this Thurs., the 17th

Mark and Sammie French request our prayers as Mark fell and broke his left wrist and Sammie threw her back out

Bruce McQuaig is home recovering from by-pass surgery

Sharon Galbreath is at home recovering from surgery

John & Laura Burka

Rick Case

Ben Cavin

Tina Childress

Joe Croteau

Tom Drinnen

Laurie Duncan

John Hoff

Becky Johnson

Bill Langley

Heather Percell

Marge Percell

Danny Rider

Terri Trent

Shirley Waggoner

Missionaries:

Tom & Angie Langley

Tommy Drinnen

Shut Ins:

Rosaline Davis

Lynda Elliott

Doris Hightower

Katheryn Norman

Bill Pruett

Dan Trent

Friends and Family:

Savannah Summers as she mourns the death of her friend, Haley Sue Pearson, who passed away in a car accident

Glenda Thompson's friend, Judy Childress, as she mourns the death of her husband, David, from COVID

The Hoff's friend, Mariah Al-Bawi, has asked for prayers as she is having financial difficulties

Stan Johnson's sister, Deb Colones, is now on hospice. Please pray for Deb, her husband, Rob, and their family

Helen Monroe and Betty Weaver's brother, Charlie Nipper, is now on hospice

Bernice Borg's mother, Sue Brady, is in hospice

Dealing with COVID: Mikaela Shannon's mom; Cathy Gilliam's sister; Aleta Esau's brother, Glen Barber; Shirley Waggoner's daughter, Pam and her husband; Janie Johnson's neighbors, Haley and Colin Vican; Kathy Campbell's sister, Fran, and her husband, Mike; Cecilia King

Jeff Neely, a good friend of the Boxes, is in ICU with a brain hemorrhage

Gregg Summers' dad, Arnold Summers

Dot Russell Alley

Kelly Wachter's step-dad, Mark Schmidt, has been diagnosed with Leukemia

John David Potter's co-worker, Dan Warner, has heart issues

Tracy Case has diabetic retinopathy. Please pray her vision is restored.

Delinda Summers' friend and neighbor, Shawyn, has breast cancer

Doug Childers' wife, Sue, is dealing with health issues

Betty Smith's 4 year old niece, River Folan, David Price's coworker, Jennifer, and his cousin, Brent, both have brain cancer