

Joseph and Mary  
The Revs. David Frazelle and Mary Davila  
December 12, 2021  
Adult Christian Formation

**Joseph**

*“Joseph was a righteous man.”* Matthew 1:19

**Matthew 1:18-25**

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

<sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;<sup>□</sup> and he named him Jesus.

**Matthew 2:13-15**

<sup>13</sup> Now after they (the wise men) had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph<sup>□</sup> got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

\*The **three character traits of Joseph** that display his righteousness that we are invited to reflect upon today:

- 1) Joseph’s ability to “sleep on it” and listen to the voice of the Spirit, instead of acting swiftly and rashly
- 2) His ability to follow the Spirit, not basing his actions on what people might think of him, but upon what he knew in his heart to be true
- 3) His ability to do the quiet work of molding a child into whom God made him to be, without fanfare, accolade, and praise

**\*Reflection questions:**

What in our lives is God inviting us to “sleep on?” Where are we tempted to act with haste, while God is inviting us to respond in faith instead react based on emotion? What decisions in your life are still hanging in the balance? Where is your mind saying “no” but your heart is saying “yes?”

What in our lives would we feel free to do if we stopped caring so much about what other people thought, and instead, sought to honor God’s will for us?

How much quiet caretaking do we do: nurturing children, caring for parents and spouses and neighbors in need...so much of that tender, loving, everyday care is unseen, uncelebrated, it’s the quiet work of God. What is the quiet work of God that you are immersed in right now? Where do you feel appreciated and not appreciated? What affirming words do you long to hear from God right now?

## Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Two character traits of Mary** that we are invited to reflect upon today:

- 1) Mary's consent to God's call to her, even though it places her in a very challenging situation.
- 2) Mary's creativity, even though her creativity makes her vulnerable.

The **reflection/journaling questions**:

When has saying "yes" to God's call put you in a challenging situation? How have you experienced the presence of Christ in the midst of that situation?

When have you accepted constraint and limitation in order to let a new creation emerge into the world? When has creativity made you vulnerable? How have you experienced the presence of Christ in your creativity?