

**NEXT STEPS** Series “Brought to the Light” Message title: “The Light of Peace” **12/7/25**

Next Steps are designed to be used in your small group settings. Need a group? Let us help!

*The scripture lesson comes from Matthew 1:18-25. It is not printed here due to length.*

*PLEASE take the time to read this passage prior to completing this Next Steps.*

This is the second Sunday of the Christian calendar. This season, which includes the 4 Sundays prior to Christmas, is called Advent. The word Advent means “the arrival” or “to come.” We are looking for Christ to come! We are looking for the Christ Child to come into this biblical narrative. How has your understanding of the season of Advent changed? How does it allow you to prepare for Christmas?

Read Matthew 1:18-25. If you really want to dive even deeper, start with verse 1 and read through the genealogy portion of this passage. This is a very familiar passage for most of us. Read it through a little different lens today. Look for the presence or absence of peace. What do you notice? Did you find peace in this passage previously? Do you see it a little differently after reading and hearing the message?

Joseph is faced with some real unknowns. Oh, he thinks he knows. He isn’t seeing the fullness of the story. How does he come to better understand the truth? How does that visit change things? How does the voice of God (through the angel) change the situation? What part of this passage or even the message unsettled or expanded your understanding of what it means to experience peace?

When you think about peace in your life, what does it usually look like?

Can you recall a time when you encountered the presence of Jesus right in the middle of chaos or pain? How did that shape you? In today’s scripture lesson, we see Joseph respond to the presence of God with obedience. He didn’t fully understand things but he was able to follow through with the guidance God provided. Is that your typical response? Share your thoughts with your small group.

This passage tells us that Joseph was a righteous man. This unusual occurrence was not some form of punishment. Jesus promises both peace and trouble in John 16. What does that tension teach you about the kind of peace He offers? “Emmanuel” means “God with us”. How does the truth that God will always be with us have the potential to change our entire lives?

How might our community look different if the church lived as if peace-making was a shared mission and calling? What’s one practical way God might be inviting you (us) into the work of peace-making in your family, community, or church? How can we as a congregation pray for you and support you in this? Remember, as partners in ministry we are called to live out this journey together.

This series will guide us to see the Light Jesus brings into the world. Want to share the Light? Who deserves to join you on this journey? When will you ask?

Remember, we have gathered in worship; now it is time to go and be the church.

***“Living intentionally in a Christlike manner to bring glory to God”***  
**the Church**