



Advent Quiet Day, 2021

# Session 2: Second Incarnation – God revealed in Jesus

# Advent Quiet Day

## **Isaiah 7: 14**

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel

## **Matthew 1: 18-23**

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet:

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

*Also Luke 1: 26-38a*



# Advent Quiet Day

## Imaginative Contemplation

We imagine we're in heaven with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit before the birth of Jesus. We look down on the whole expanse of earth and see it teeming with humans. All colours, all races; some enjoy peace and plenty, others suffer the ravages of war, deprivation and starvation, some are laughing, some are weeping.

We also see the ravages of human exploitation on creation- polluted waters, plastic waste, deforestation. We hear the Holy Trinity decide that 'the fullness of time has come' for the Son to leave the splendours of heaven and come to earth as the final masterpiece of the original plan to reconcile ALL creation to God.

We imagine the 3 members of the Godhead searching for someone on earth who will be willing and capable of caring for God's Son in the formative years of his infancy and adolescence. We watch the world revolve and we notice that their gaze focuses on Nazareth – and on Mary and Joseph.

As we watch, God sends his special envoy, Gabriel, to Mary, and to Joseph in a dream, and we notice their individual responses. We spend as many minutes as we can spare simply gazing at the scene as it unfolds – contemplating the mystery.



# Advent Quiet Day

We ask ourselves:

- where have I been in my imagination and how do I want to respond?
- what can I learn from Mary and Joseph?
- what do I learn from the quiet, 'simple' way in which God works?

Keep moving and living and breathing in us  
Keep working and singing and speaking through us

You dwell among us, You dwell among us  
You dwell among us, dwell among us

With all this life I long to see  
more of You and less of me  
Lord send Your spirit here to work in us

And dwell among us, please dwell among us  
And dwell among us, You dwell among us

