

# CHRISTMAS EVE (5pm & 7pm)

## Echoing Joy: Joseph's Joy

by Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

The Nativity of Our Lord--Christmas Eve (5/7pm)  
24 December, A.D. 2017  
Isa 7:10-14; Ps. 110:1-4; 1 Jn 4:7-16; Mt 1:18-25

### Introduction

Assumptions...

Sat, 11/25; Sun, 11/26, 2017 and Alex's  
assumptions...

What Alex didn't know...

Why did Alex's fear and disappointment turn to joy?

### I. An Unexpected Visit

What was Joseph like?

What was betrothal?

A conversation something like this:

"Joseph, I'm pregnant."

"What?"

"It's a miracle, Joseph. I will give birth to the Messiah!"

"What! Are you out of your mind?"

"No, Joseph. It's true."

"This is crazy. Who is it? tell me. I'm going to kill him."

"Joseph, the Angel Gabriel appeared to me and told me this would happen."

Why didn't Joseph do what the Law allowed?

Another unexpected visit: Matthew 1:20–25

What does "Jesus" mean?

Were Joseph's assumptions reasonable? Were they right?

Joseph's disappointment and fear and anger turned to \_\_\_\_\_... and a Godly conviction: I will be \_\_\_\_\_ to this blessed woman and I will \_\_\_\_\_ this truly holy Child.

## **II. Burst Assumptions and True Hope**

What is the greatest burst assumption in history?

Cf., Mt 1.21

Cf. Jn 20.9: *"Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy"*

Cf. Jn 20.9: *"... they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead."*

# CHRISTMAS EVE (10:30 pm)

## Echoing Joy: Mary's Joy

by Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

The Nativity of Our Lord--Christmas Midnight  
24 December, A.D. 2017  
Isa 9.2-7; Ps 96; Titus 2.11-14; Lk 2.1-20

### Introduction

"A battle thus became, in a measure, unavoidable."  
-General Robert E. Lee on Gettysburg

Avoiding, reckoning, and standing...

Mary's stance of faith...

What were some consequences for Mary? Mary's joy  
was in the midst of \_\_\_\_\_.

Treasuring and Pondering

Luke 2:18-19 (ESV)

### II. Live by Faith

Joys and struggles...

The spiritual issue: Avoiding is running from  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### ***Learning from Mary***

### ***Focus on Christ***

### **Conclusion**

CCT: Christ completed the saving work for which He was \_\_\_\_\_. He \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead!

What does this enable us to do?

What is the purpose of Christ's birth?

What are your assumptions?

How is Christianity unique?

Hebrews 4:15 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

What does this mean for us and our assumptions?

1 John 4:9–11 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

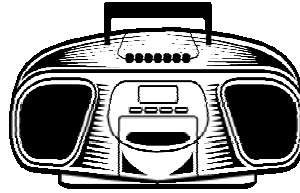
What does this mean for us and our assumptions?

## **Conclusion**

Christmas *is* a call to \_\_\_\_\_. It is a call to repent of \_\_\_\_\_ assumptions...

CCT: Christ turns our assumptions into \_\_\_\_\_.

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