

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:20,21 (CSB)

## On the Road

Here we are on the way to Bethlehem ... to pay taxes. Why now? Mary is getting close to her delivery time.

And then I think back to when this journey really began.

We are going to have a baby! When Mary told me ... I thought I should divorce her since we were not yet really married. But then Gabriel appeared to me and told me our baby was of the Holy Spirit and He would be Yeshua, Jesus.

Oh, I was so excited and then it hit me: *Wait!* How can I be His father? What can I teach the Son of God?

Gradually my anxiety began to lessen as I realized my Father, my Abba, would lead me to do the right things through Holy Spirit.

Of course. I could teach Him to be a carpenter: how to select the right wood for the job, the tools to use to make whatever was needed. He would be my apprentice.

I would also teach Him, as any father would, how to seek Yahweh-God, how to praise Him, to begin teaching Him the Torah, and how a young man ought to act.

But then, I couldn't help but think, "He's the Son of God; He probably will be born knowing that kind of thing." No, maybe He *will* need me to teach Him these things.

Yes, Holy Spirit will lead me, so I can be Yeshua's earthly Abba.

Delivery is soon. My Abba-Father knows exactly where we are and what will happen next.

I can rest in His peace.

*Dr. Terry C. Terry, Lifeway retiree, and his wife Marvis live in the Nashville, Tennessee area.*

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Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant.

LUKE 2:45 (CSB)

# SAPPONY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Michael Dickey

December 10, 2023

[www.sapponybaptist1773.org](http://www.sapponybaptist1773.org)

## Invocation and Welcome

Hymn No. 89 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Hymn No 93 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Missionary Prayer Calendar Ann Lewis

## Pastoral Prayer

Hymn No. 95 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Scripture 2 Peter 3:8-15

Sermon Rev. Mike Dickey

"Our Lord's Patience"

Hymn No. 307 "Just As I Am"

## Benediction

Pre-read for next week: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Wednesday group is taking a break over the holiday season. We look forward to beginning a new study after the first of the year.

To subscribe to our text alerts, text "JOIN" to 804-430-6282. We send out prayer requests and reminders.

Be sure to look for our Daily Devotional on our website:  
[sapponybaptist1773.org](http://sapponybaptist1773.org)

Missed a sermon? Or just want to hear it again? Our Past sermons are available on our website, Facebook, Youtube, and your favorite podcast app.