

From Chaos to Christmas

"Christmas at Pearlside"

Sunday, December 22, 2019 • Pastor Norman Nakanishi

Luke 2:1-7 ESV

When faced with broken expectations, make room for divine interventions.

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'" (Matthew 1:18-21 ESV)

Discern God's presence and respond to God's leading.

"When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus." (Matthew 1:24-25 ESV)

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. (Psalm 34:18-19 ESV)

Call on Him, draw close to Him and receive Him.

"You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. ¹⁷The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. ¹⁸The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth." (Psalm 145:16-18 ESV)

"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you..." (James 4:8 ESV)

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13 ESV)

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20 ESV)