

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 11, 2022

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow!

Christmas with the Spirituals

“Mary Had a Baby”

Scripture: St. Matthew 1: 18-25 (NRSV)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do 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 as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.



~ SERMON NOTES ~

Mary was willing to listen to God’s voice, obey God’s will, and entrust the future into God’s hands – even though it put her and Joseph in a very difficult, awkward, and complicated position. Why?

Mary had a baby...

1. That would show us what _____.

Christmas gives God a face. It gives us a new picture of the Divine. All the God that we are ever going to see has been made known in Jesus Christ.

Mary had a baby...

2. That would show us what _____.

Christmas can break through the fog of confusion and show us that people are more important than things, that people are not toys to be played with and manipulated but to be loved and appreciated.

Mary had a baby...

3. That would show us what _____.

Is there room in my life for Jesus? The redemption Christ offers us can pave the way. Mary had a baby, oh my Lord!
