

Advent Day 20 (written by Deb Bakken)

Hammer

Matthew 1:18-23

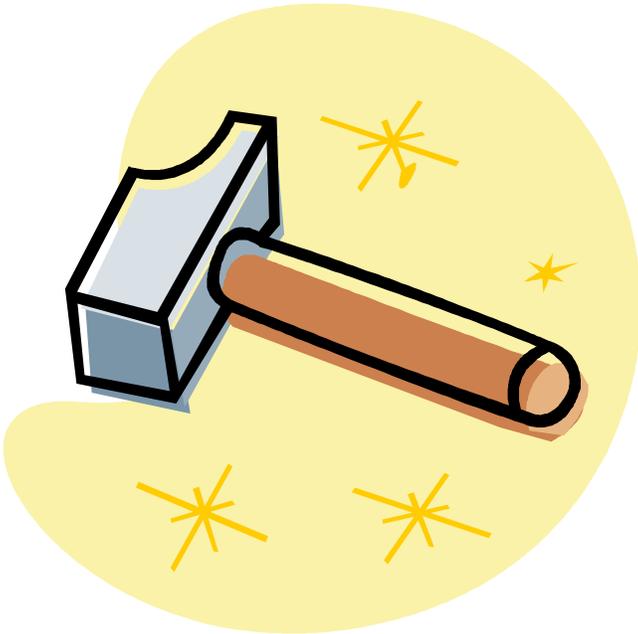
This show the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind 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 fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-which means, "God with us." (NIV 1984)

Sometimes, we are going along, minding our own business, and God calls on us to do something very special. It probably was a day just like any other day, when Joseph came home tired from his carpenter work. Instead of a restful night's sleep, he had an unusual dream. An angel came to him and told him not to be afraid to do a very special job. He would be the man to raise God's own Son, the promised Messiah!

We know from God's Word that Joseph accepted that special assignment, to be the earthly father of the Son of God—but he kept on just being a carpenter, too! Jesus was known as "the carpenter's son." He was also known as Immanuel, God with us.

God doesn't ask of us what he asked of Joseph. Instead of using an angel-dream, God speaks to us in his Word. God's Word says to us,



“Always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you the reason for the hope that you have.” (1 Peter 3:15) Like Joseph, we keep on doing what we did before.

Parents have jobs. Grandparents have time to help others. Kids busy themselves with school and sports. Some people will prepare to teach God’s Word full-time as pastors and teachers. Jesus’ name Immanuel meant he would live as true man on earth. It also reminds us he is with us every day of our lives.

Prayer: Lord, give us courage to do the things you ask of us. Remind us you are always with us. We are not alone. Amen.