

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

1136 Baseline Road
Grand Island, New York www.bfcgi.org 716-773-3748

THE LORD'S DAY

December 9, 2018 8:30 AM & 10:15AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude David Schmidt
Piano Wendy Baldwin
Announcements

Lighting of the 2nd candle to signify the city of Christ's birth Micah 5:2

Carol 254, 260 "Isn't He" "Worthy, You Are Worthy"

Scripture Reading Psalm 121-122:1 responsively John VanderMey

Prayer

Carol 249 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Pastoral Prayer

Message Joseph's Obedience

Matthew 13:53-58; 1:18-25 Pastor Cal VanderMey

Benediction Carol 277 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

THE MINISTRY OF MISSION

For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Caroling-No Youth Group Monday- 6:30 pm

Monday Christmas Caroling-Bus leaves church at **6pm** sharp!

No Tuesday Bible study at 7pm. Pastor Cal teaching

Wednesday Choir Practice at 7pm

No Thursday Precept at 9:15 on the book of Revelation with Margaret Was

Ladies fellowship Thursday at 10am

Adult Bible study Friday at 7pm - John Woodell teaching

Looking Ahead

Children's Advent Service today!!! Sunday December 9th at 3pm

Christmas Caroling Monday evening Dec. 10th. Bus leaves church at 6pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carol Service 6pm

"Our Virgin Born Immanuel--God with us!"

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

The mystery stated in Genesis 3:15--seed of a woman--is now explained for us in Isaiah 7:14. The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son. Humanity alone cannot achieve that fact, but God can do that which is impossible. What a comfort that should have been to King Ahaz at a time of trouble in the history of the Kingdom of Judah. God can do anything, and He will do the impossible. And God can still do that today in your life and mine. Ahaz rejected the sign as having any import, and Isaiah's greatest prediction went unheeded for 700 years.

In a dream a man in Nazareth was given this same verse, and it was the explanation that he needed to decide what to do with the woman to whom he was engaged. Joseph was told that Mary was the virgin, and the child to be born was indeed Immanuel (Matthew 1:23).

Immanuel is literally God with us, a reminder to Joseph that the child that she would bear would be God Himself coming down to live among men. Scholars tell us that when the Bible speaks of God dwelling among men it literally means "He pitched His tent among us" (John 1:1-14). Did Joseph realize that his wife was chosen to be the vehicle through which God would enter the human race--yes! New Testament writers explained for us the significance of the Virgin Birth. I John 4:9 views it from the aspect of God's love: By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. Paul views the Virgin Birth as essential in order for God to handle our sin problem: But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons (Galatians 4:4-5).

When you go into a doctor's office, and the doctor scrambles to find your name, you do not feel very important. Yet you have God who cares about you personally. So much so, that He gave you this sign--the Virgin Birth--to comfort you that your sin problem is not going to be handled by you, but rather that God Himself pitched a tent here on earth 2000 years ago, and took care of the whole mess that our sins had created. How thankful we should be for the Virgin Birth of Christ--God with us!

God the Help of Those Who Seek Him
A Song of Ascents.

121 I will lift up my eyes to the hills—
From whence comes my help?

**² My help comes from the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth.**

³ He will not allow your foot to be moved;
He who keeps you will not slumber.

**⁴ Behold, He who keeps Israel
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.**

⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
The LORD is your shade at your right hand.

**⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
Nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;
He shall preserve your soul.

**⁸ The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in
From this time forth, and even forevermore.**

**122 I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go into the house of the LORD.”**

congregation reads bold print