

The Lay Reader's Script for Sunday
December 22nd, 2019
Lay Reader: Ms. Sheri-Lyn Slansky

After the Prelude, please begin the Call to Worship...

Let us begin with our Call to Worship.

One: We have been looking for a sign.

All: Emmanuel—God with us.

One: We have been waiting for a savior.

All: Emmanuel—God with us.

One: The time is near—can it be?

All: Emmanuel—God with us. Come let us worship the God of sign, wonder, and promise.

After the Gloria Patri, and after everyone is seated, please say:

“Let us pray our Prayer of Illumination”:

**We come this morning, tired from rushing around,
tired of trying to meet the demands and expectations
of the season.**

Slow us down.

**Help us center our thoughts. Restore in us a childlike wonder,
and a belief that dreams really do come true.**

**We call on your name.
Be with us and in us, Emmanuel.
*Amen.***

And now the First Reading, Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.

Continued on Reverse Side →

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. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

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.

She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

**‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel’,**

which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.