



December 19, 2018

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The season of Advent looks with hope to the birth of Emmanuel, which means “God-with-us.”

Stories about the birth of Jesus are told in the gospels of Luke and Matthew, including the first birth announcements, which were made to unlikely people. In Luke, an angel announces the birth to shepherds keeping watch in their fields. In Matthew, a strange star in the heavens announces the birth to the magi from other lands.

The birth of Jesus was announced with great joy to humble workers and to foreigners; to those who slept under the sky and to those whose homes were far away; to those whose bodies were tired and whose minds were not well; to those who had families and to those who did not, and to those whose families looked different from others.

The birth of Jesus was announced with joy to those who feared for their world; and those who felt defined by what they lacked rather than by what they had; and to those who had little joy to share in response.

The birth was announced to those who believed it and to those who did not, or who didn't know what to make of it.

And that means that if any of you are like any of them, then it is to you that the birth of God's presence is announced. God looks upon you with favor, just as you are. Emmanuel is born.

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt".

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister