



# Daily Reflections

**December 18, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **Matthew 1: 18-25**

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him

and took his wife into his home.

He had no relations with her until she bore a son.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

What an amazing and remarkable belief we have as Christians: Our God is not some impersonal deity or power way out there light years away. He is Emmanuel. He is our God with us. No other religious system dares make such a claim. While the full impact of this belief may not impress you during this busy season, I promise you that it will when the day comes for you to prepare for your last Christmas in this life. Emmanuel was sent to lead you from this life (and may it last a long time) to the life that never ends. What a gift!

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## **Food for your Journey**

It is no use saying that we are born two thousand years too late to give room to Christ. Nor will those who live at the end of the world have been born too late. Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts.

But now it is with the voice of our contemporaries that he speaks, with the eyes of store clerks, factory workers and children that he gazes; with the hands of office workers, slum dwellers and suburban housewives that he gives. It is with the feet of soldiers and tramps that he walks, and with the heart of anyone in need that he longs for shelter. And giving shelter or food to anyone who asks for it, or needs it, is giving it to Christ.

If we hadn't got Christ's own words for it, it would seem raving lunacy to believe that if I offer a bed and food and hospitality to some man or woman or child, my guest is Christ. There is nothing to show it, perhaps. There are no halos already glowing round their heads -- at least none that human eyes can see.

--Dorothy Day, "Room for Christ," in *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas* (Plough Publishing House, 2001), 179-181.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, Help me to clear out and clean up whatever needs to be cleared and cleaned so that I may celebrate the birth of my Savior with purity and joy. Amen