

DEACON JIM MCFADDEN

PRESENTS

ADVENT 2023

The Infancy Narratives

AN ONLINE SERIES



Week 1: November 27, 7pm

Introduction: The Infancy Narratives

The Advent/Christmas season is a very special time for Christians, which is augmented by our Biblical knowledge. So much of Advent readings contain Old Testament readings and references in which we see a prophetic preparation of God's people for the anticipated coming of the Messiah, which is relived in the Infancy Narratives contained in chapters 1-2 in Matthew and Luke's Gospel. For Advent 2023 we will be reflecting on the Infancy Narratives contained in Matthew's Gospel.

Week 2: December 4, 7pm

The Birth of Jesus and the Visit of the Magi

The Birth of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel is told from the perspective of Joseph, while Mary is in the background. Joseph receives the message of the pending birth in a dream. The latter in the Old Testament is one of the ways that God communicates with humanity. So, Joseph is the Hebraic tradition of God communicating Revelation through dreams.

Week 3: December 11, 7pm

Flight, Tragic Murder, Return

The rest of Chapter Two has to deal with movement: of flight, tragic murder which portends the death of Jesus, and the return to Nazareth. Having heard of the birth of Jesus, the visit of the Magi, we now learn of the flight to Egypt, the weeping of the women of Bethlehem who mourn the massacre of the infants, and the return from Egypt and settling in Nazareth. Again, these are older stories bubbling under the surface that help to explain the story of Jesus.

Week 4: December 18, 7pm

Think Outside the Box

The Bible turns upside-down the way we think about the God-human relationship. In almost every other religion or philosophy, God or the gods are the powerful forces who have to be supplicated, begged, and prayed to in order for human beings to get what they want. But the Bible presents an entirely different picture. Indeed, the Bible is not the story of our quest for God; it is the story of God's quest for us. Both the first reading and the Gospel for this fourth Sunday of Advent makes his subversion evident.

To register for the series, please email
Theresa Grant at tgrant@talkpathlive.com

You will receive an email prior to the scheduled session with the Zoom link & instructions. Please check your spam/junk mail in case you do not receive the email in your inbox.

NOTE: WEEKLY ATTENDANCE IS NOT REQUIRED!
Recordings available!

