

Trust!

Scripture used: [Matthew 1:18-25 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon delivered the third “Adore Him!” sermon in our series leading up to Christmas. This week focused on “Emmanuel,” a 15th century carol originally written in Latin. It was translated to English around 1860 and has been one of the most popular carols ever since. The key idea of Emmanuel - meaning “God with us” - is about the Messiah, who was prophesied to deliver Israel from oppression and unite humanity. In [Isaiah 7:14 \(NLT\)](#) this King of Kings is described as being born of a virgin, whom we now know was Mary. When Jesus was born, however, almost no one believed He was the messiah. God was revered so highly that His name could not be spoken or written. The idea that He could be born as fragile human child was beyond belief! Paul marveled at this fact in [Colossians 2:9 \(NLT\)](#). And as we learn in this sermon, Jesus actually fulfilled the prophecy by being adopted as Joseph’s son. Now we have all been extended the same grace. God has chosen each of us to be an adopted member of His holy family!

KEY POINTS

- 1) **Emmanuel (“God with us”) focuses on the coming of the Messiah and the uniting of humanity.** The Jewish people thought the prophecy was more like a metaphor. They were expecting a political leader, not the actual Son of God! As a disciple, Matthew saw everything Jesus did with his own eyes and eventually came to believe in Him with all his heart. His gospel tries to convince other Jews that Jesus really is the Redeemer of humanity.
- 2) **Jesus truly is with us, no matter how broken we seem to be.** God can bring new life into any person. That is how Jesus Himself was conceived. The Holy Spirit entrusted Mary with life, and she became pregnant. Never doubt that God wants to work similar miracles in your life. No one is beyond redemption!
- 3) **We see ourselves in Jesus.** There is no real description of Jesus anywhere in the Bible. The early church did not allow any images to be made, so it wasn’t until the 4th century that we started to see visual representations of Jesus. Michelangelo popularized a white European image of Jesus, and every other culture since then has also produced their own version. This is part of Jesus’ universal appeal. Because He is “with us,” he can be seen and appreciated by our cultural lens, even though He also transcends all cultures.
- 4) **Joseph adopted Jesus in his family and lineage, completing the ancient Jewish prophecies.** We see the 42 generations of Joseph’s family laid out in [Isaiah 1:1-16 \(NLT\)](#). But Jesus is first only known as Mary’s son. Joseph chose to name the baby, which formally laid his claim as a father by adoption. And by naming the child Jesus as instructed by the angel, Joseph attests that Jesus is fully human and fully of God.
- 5) **We must be adopted into Jesus’ family just like He was adopted into Joseph’s family.** God offered us all the opportunity to join His family. As Paul wrote in [Ephesians 1:4-8 \(NLT\)](#), “God loves us and chose us to be holy and without fault in His eyes.” Because we are adopted into God’s family, what is important is not our physical likeness to Jesus (or fighting over what the historical Jesus looked like). What is truly important is whether we are similar to Jesus in his character, heart for others, and faithfulness to God. This is the most important piece of our adopted heritage. We were freed from our sins through Jesus, who will always be with us. And God will shape us to be more like Him! Emmanuel!

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - How do you picture Jesus? Is he tall or short? Attractive or ugly? Does he have a particular ethnicity? Discuss these images with other people. How is this picture of Jesus for you helpful or unhelpful? What parts of this picture are important to you, and what parts are unimportant?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Do you truly feel like a part of Jesus’ lineage and adopted into God’s family? Is anything holding you back from fully embracing your identity as a child of God, adopted into God’s family with Jesus as your elder brother, who shares His inheritance with you? What impact would it make in your daily life if you lived out of this royal status? Think about the impact royalty makes even in worldly terms.
- 3) **DO** - Pastor Hurmon gave everyone a specific task this week. He wants us all to read [Psalms 139 \(NLT\)](#) and reflect on what the God is saying in this holiday season. It’s also the perfect time to invite family and friends to [one of the five Christmas Gatherings](#) happening this Saturday and Sunday!