

We continue our Advent sermon series ***Home for the Holidays***. Today's notes will carry you deeper into Dr. Baucom's sermon ***Daddy's Home***, which he preached last week.

1. "*Home is where the heart is.*" You have most likely heard that expression before. What does it stir within you?
2. Dr. Baucom introduced "*Home is where God's heart is,*" a different expression with a new sentiment. Do you agree? Why? If not, why not?
3. Where do you find your heart wandering to this advent season?
4. **Read and reflect on Matthew 1: 18-25.** Sit and reflect with this rich passage for about 10 minutes. As best you can, put yourself in Joseph's place. An angel came to Mary, told her some amazing things, and Mary was willing to be obedient to what she understood God was asking her to do.
 - What might be running through his heart and mind as he was "*considering*" all that he learned?
 - The young woman he is betrothed to finds herself pregnant and it is not his child. What is the 'righteous thing' to do for her, for himself, for the child?

Read verse 20-23. While he was '*considering*' all this, an angel came to him, too, in a dream.

- What do you think Joseph thought when he awoke?
- The angel again began, "*do not be afraid.*" Why might Joseph have been afraid? For himself? Mary? The future?
- Do you think he might have been measuring his angel visit to what Mary had told him about hers?
- What question might Joseph have wanted to ask the angel? What questions might you have wanted to ask the angel?

5. **Read Matthew 1:24 and Luke 1:38.** Reflect on the responses Mary and Joseph give to being an intimate part of God's plan.
 - How are they similar?
 - What do their answers say to us about the relationship they have with God?
 - How might this relationship shape the environment of the home they are about to create together?
6. Have you ever moved someplace new, seeking to begin again? Can you describe your hopes and the anticipation you experienced? How did they shape your finding a new home? Read the following Scripture concerning others who were asked to move their home for God's purposes:
 - **Genesis 12:1-5**
 - **Genesis 35:1-5; 9-20**
 - **Ruth 1:6-19**
 - How did these moves change their lives? Were they able to find home again?
 - How did they affect God's plan for them?
7. As we **Read Luke 2:1-6** we discover that Joseph's family home, ancestral home, of Bethlehem, was to be where Mary would give birth to Jesus.
 - Though prophecy states the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem, why else do you think God planned for Mary to give birth there?
 - What might have been going through Joseph and Mary's minds as they traveled? What do you think their hopes and dreams might have been?
 - Do you think they even came close to anticipating what God had in store for them?

As we share Advent together this year, may your heart experience *home* in the family of faith at Columbia -- all the while helping others to make Columbia their home.