

We are all meant to be  
mothers of God. God is always  
needing to be born.

Meister Eckhart



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“Todo esto sucedió para que se cumpliera lo que el Señor  
había dicho por medio del profeta: ‘La virgen quedará  
encinta y tendrá un hijo, al que pondrán por nombre  
Emanuel que significa: ‘Dios con nosotros.’” —Mateo 1:22-23.

# *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

December 18, 2022

## **Love Is Waiting to Be Born**

by Jane Johnson

*We are all meant to be mothers of God.  
God is always needing to be born.*

—Meister Eckhart

When I was pregnant with my first child, the popular thing for expectant parents to do was to take Lamaze classes. At these classes we learned how to keep things as simple as possible in order to breathe, to focus, and to prepare ourselves for the tremendously difficult work of labor. Back in those days (the mid-eighties), “better living through chemistry” wasn’t encouraged during childbirth, so we were counting on our preparation and our breathing to see us through. And we were told to prepare some items to have with us, including a “focus item.” The focus item was something we would look at to help us focus all our energy and strength into the work our minds and hearts and bodies would be doing in order to give birth.

In week four of Advent we hear the story of how Joseph learns he is going to, very unexpectedly, become a father. Many of us, like Joseph, get thrown an unexpected curveball and we have to quickly adjust. And it’s such a good news/bad news situation for him: “Mary’s pregnant! Hooray! But wait, how can that be? What will people think? Of me? Of her? Of this child? Culture tells me to walk away. But this angel, this messenger, tells me that this child is of the Holy Spirit and to name him Jesus, Yeshua—the One who saves. AND ... this new life is entrusted to me.”

What an overwhelming prospect! I often wonder if Joseph consulted anyone else. Did Joseph have some trusted advisors who helped him to figure out what to do? I mean, that’s what I do when I get overwhelming information or a request is made of me that seems too big to even really consider. I go to my trusted circle of people, and they help me wade through the details, the fears, and the excitement, so that I can get at the heart of the matter.



**Worship**

# Advent Day 22

**Linger before leaving your worship time today. How is God calling you to hear and sing along with Mary's Song? Read Luke 1:39-55.**



**The Way of Love**

