

### **Open It**

What would be a good time to know that God is with you?

### **Consider It**

Read Luke 1:5–38. Compare the experiences of Zechariah and Mary. What similarities and differences do you see in their stories? In their responses to God? How are these similarities or differences significant?

Read Matthew 1:18-25. How is Joseph's experience similar and different from Mary's experience?

Who do you relate to best, Zechariah, Elizabeth, Joseph, or Mary? What would you have thought or felt if you were in their place?

Read **Luke 1:46–55, 67–79**. What do Mary's and Zechariah's songs reveal about God? About his plan of salvation? About the hope we can find in him?

Read **Luke 2:1–7**. Catherine McNiel points out the significance of the details Luke includes, saying, "Jesus is born into history . . . The true God came near to us physically, tangibly, in a way that we can see with our eyes and touch with our hands." How do these details underscore the nature of God's love for us and our reason to hope in him?

How do you experience God's presence with you in your life?  
What spiritual habits help us deepen our relationship with God?

### **Advent: A Living Hope**

The Hope of Immanuel

Matthew 1:18-25

December 12 & 13, 2020

### **Sermon Proposition**

The promise of Immanuel (God with us) should fuel your hope.

### **The Promise of Immanuel**

*Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)

### **The Presence of Immanuel**

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").*

Matthew 1:22–23 (NIV)

### **The Experience of Immanuel**

*But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.*

John 16:7 (NIV)