



December 16, 2025

Matthew 1:18–25

In today's scripture, we hear the familiar but always tender story of Joseph and the angel who comes to him in a dream. Joseph is facing uncertainty, confusion, and heartache. His plans for the future have been turned upside down. And into that troubled moment, an angel appears with a message from God.

The angel's first words are simple and comforting: "Do not be afraid." Those words appear again and again throughout the Bible whenever angels show up. It's as if God knows how

easily fear can take hold of the human heart—and how deeply we need reassurance.

Angels in Scripture are messengers. They do not come for their own sake, but to bring God's word, God's guidance, and God's peace. They show up at turning points—when someone is unsure, afraid, or standing at the edge of something new.

Joseph listens. He trusts the message. And because he listens, he becomes part of God's great story of love and salvation. He names the child Jesus, which means "God saves," and he agrees to walk a path he never would have chosen on his own.

Many of us know what it is like to live with uncertainty. Life in a long-term care community can bring changes we didn't

expect—changes to our bodies, our routines, or our sense of independence. Like Joseph, we may find ourselves wondering what comes next.

The good news is this: God still sends messengers. Sometimes they come through Scripture. Sometimes through a kind word, a caregiver's touch, a phone call from a loved one, or a moment of quiet peace that settles our hearts. These, too, can be angels in our midst—reminding us that God is near.

## **Prayer**

Gracious God, Thank you for sending messengers of hope and peace. When we feel afraid or uncertain, remind us that you are with us. Open our hearts to hear your gentle voice and to trust your loving presence in our lives. Amen.

In Christ's Love,

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