

## SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

[Rev. Gene Henderson & edits by Pastor Pier]

**Joseph was a hero.** We should know that, but there's a newly released Netflix movie called "*Mary*" that pictures Joseph as a true man. The movie's author is a Roman Catholic and that church believes Mary was Divine, but the movie doesn't go that far. Their characterization of Joseph, though, is the best of all movies about the birth of Christ.

If you think about what you've read or seen of Joseph, you know **he loved Mary**, and **Jesus the child of God**. We don't think or talk often about the love between Joseph and Mary, but **love is the greatest power of our world**. Greater than the armies of great earthly kingdoms. Greater than the navies of the United States of America. Greater even than nuclear weapons that everyone is afraid of. Jesus brought love to our world and 2000 years later, we're still amazed at His gift to humanity. Joseph fell in love with Mary. And proved it.

But Joseph lived in a violent time, when the Roman army inhabited Israel, when Herod was the king of Israel, when many of the common men of that time were tempted to revolt. Herod rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem and, even as he did so, hated the idea of a coming savior or as Israel identified Him as Messiah. Joseph lived with Mary, watched her give birth to a Child he knew was not his own, took Mary to Egypt until Herod died, brought her back to Nazareth and helped her raise Jesus to adulthood. Imagine the courage and bravery that would motivate a man to do that, protecting his loved ones regardless of the cost.

The movie "*Mary*" displays Joseph's warrior's heart. He fought for Mary. He fought for the child, Jesus. He changed every dream or expectation of his life for this young woman and her baby. God protected them, but **He used Mary's obedient faith and Joseph's incredible courage to do it**. Should that surprise us? How many millions of humans have martyred themselves for their faith in Christ, the baby Mary brought into the world that first Christmas?

**For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My Words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.** [Mark 8:35-38]

# Jesus Is Born!

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024



*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way."*

### SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM  
Unity in Prayer & Youth: 6:00 – 7:00 PM  
Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM; Kid's Club  
Prayer ½ hour before services

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***



***Wednesday Bible Study*** – we continue our study of the Rapture of the church.

***Flagging Class*** – Wednesdays, at 6:00 PM prior to our Bible study. Special thanks to all the participants of this praise ministry.

***Kid's Club Christmas Party*** – Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.

***Midweek Bible Study*** – December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day will be cancelled so all can enjoy celebrating Jesus' Birthday together.

***New Year's Eve Service*** – December 31<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday night at 10:00 PM. We will be celebrating Communion as the new year starts.

Rev. Bill Pier Jr., Campus Pastor

Rev. Arthur Henderson – Pastor

Pastor's cell phone: 518.567.9788

Location & Mail: 292 Hays Road, Rensselaer, NY 12144

Office Telephone: 518.479.3439

Email: [pastorpier@newlifeaogeg.org](mailto:pastorpier@newlifeaogeg.org)

Webpage: <http://www.newlifeaogeg.org>

Guest Wi-Fi: NewLifeGuest – password: NewLife292

## ***CHRISTMAS PROGRAM***

***Worship Time***

***Prayer***

***Announcements***

***Piano & Viola Duet*** – Away In A Manger – Georgette and Kyelah

***Poem*** – The True Meaning of Christmas – Emmanuel

***Flagging*** – Oh Holy Night

***Children Liturgical Dance*** – Silent Night

***Children Liturgical Dance*** – Speak The Name

***Do You Have Room?*** – New Life Girls

***Make Room*** – Paul Slingerland

***Liturgical Dance*** – Debbie DeVries

***Message*** – Christmas' Main Woman

***Worship Song*** - Immanuel