



EPISODE TITLE: "Conceived by the Spirit"

Into This World, Episode 4

Featured Guest: *Cynthia Lindenmayer*

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Lindenmayer, a member of Countryside Community Church in Omaha, NE and a minister of the United Church of Christ. She currently serves as a chaplain for American Public University System (APUS) and the American Military University (AMU). Cynthia is a graduate of Duke Divinity School, where she now teaches in the Doctor of Ministry Program. She earned her own Doctor of Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary. Cynthia is a consultant to the military relating to military sexual assault, and has been appointed to the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services. Her passions include ministry through teaching Spinning, Zumba, Piloxing and Silver Slippers. She, and her husband, Col. Vince Lindemayer have two children, Carly and Luke.

Questions:

1. What themes in Habakkuk, Esther and Isaiah point to the story of Jesus?
2. What distinguishes the birth of a Messiah? Why is it important to the ancient story for Mary to be a virgin? What meaning does the story have for us today?
3. What are some of the most important characteristics of Joseph? How do his actions affect the story of Jesus?

Pneuma Divina Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah* took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;* and he named him Jesus.