

Almost Christmas

Part 2-Altogether Love

Matthew 1:18-19, Luke 1:26-38, John 1:14, 3:16-17

Consider How Love Permeates the Advent Story...

1. Joseph surrendered to love in his marriage to Mary.

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. Matthew 1:18-19 NIV

2. Mary surrendered to love in her willingness to be the mother for the son of God.

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. Luke 1:38 NIV

3. Jesus surrendered to the Father's will to come to a world in need.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 NIV

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. John 3:16-17 NIV

An Almost Love is a love that CHOOSES who and how to love; an Altogether Love is willing to SURRENDER to God's plan and purpose in each and every circumstance.

Have you surrendered to and embraced God's altogether love?

What barriers in your faith journey have you encountered that seem to keep you at arm's length from fully embracing God's love?