

Jesus, Immanuel

Scripture Reading — Matthew 1:18-25

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

Matthew 1:23 —

Today is Christmas. Jesus came to earth as Immanuel—“God with us.” Jesus is God among humankind; he is God dressed in human skin; he is God “pitching his tent” among us, as John 1:14 literally states!

Sin separated us from God, but God took the initiative to come to us. In the tabernacle set up in the wilderness, God dwelled among his people. In the temple of Jerusalem, the presence of God filled the Most Holy Place. But in the fullness of time (Galatians 4:4), God “became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14). The eternal entered into time. The divine became human.

The infinite God became a finite infant and was placed in a manger. He who cannot be contained by the confines of the heavens became a child who would need to grow in wisdom and stature and grace.

Those little words “with us” define the incredible comfort we receive this Christmas Day. This Christmas may find you far from home, or perhaps enduring the first Christmas after losing a loved one. It may seem that the only way to describe your life right now is “lonely”!

Don’t believe it! Christmas is here to assure you that, in Christ, God is beside you now and always! He is the “with us” God!

Prayer

Lord, thank you for being Immanuel—“God with us”! May we celebrate your birth with true joy, knowing that you came to save and sustain us. Come into our hearts today, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Devotion topics: [God](#), [Jesus](#), [God's Names](#)

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