

Advent Calendar: Day 9

The reflections for this week are centered around the readings for this Sunday's texts
Jeremiah 33:12-16, Romans 13:8-12, Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew 1:23b

And they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

While Joseph is told to name the holy babe, Jesus, he is also told that Jesus will be called "Emmanuel". While this declaration fulfills prophecy, more importantly it proclaims the mystery and promise of the incarnation: "God is with us." There are many implications surrounding the birth of our Lord, but none are so profound and comforting than this. God's love does not chiefly reach out to us by the eloquent beauty of poetic verse, the insightful brilliance of theological inquiry, the majestic design of his creative work, or the immeasurable display of His Heavenly Glory. God's love simply but significantly says, "I am with you." "I am present in your pain and joy. Nothing can separate you from my love, neither heights or depths, things present or things to come, life or death." Jesus has come to us and will not leave us.

Sometimes we don't need a solution, we just need someone to be with us. Just as God gifts us with his presence through Christ so we need to gift others with our presence. This season of Covid has made being present for others more difficult. Take some time to be present for someone today. If you can't be spatially present with someone who could use the support, be present with your time and energy, extend yourself in conversation and relationship.