

## Christmas Eve ~ Thursday, December 24, 2020

### “Prepare Him Room: Emmanuel”

#### Isaiah 7:14 and Luke 2:1-20

The true meaning of Christmas isn't so much about \_\_\_\_\_ things, but \_\_\_\_\_ things. And no matter what decorations we put up in our homes; no matter what food we eat; no matter what presents we give or receive; nothing is more \_\_\_\_\_ than the gift that God has given us.

Despite what the world would have us believe, Christmas doesn't come from a store, but was all \_\_\_\_\_ idea. It began in His \_\_\_\_\_ and it's all about God's \_\_\_\_\_ for His people most fully expressed in the gift of his Son, Jesus.

The Baby born in the stable that first Christmas morning, was no \_\_\_\_\_ baby, but rather \_\_\_\_\_: God with us—the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy spoken almost 700 years before.

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).” (Isaiah 7:14)

“Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word...” (Hebrews 1:1-3)

Incarnation =

In Jesus the babe in Bethlehem, the \_\_\_\_\_, all \_\_\_\_\_ God—the \_\_\_\_\_ of the heavens and earth—became \_\_\_\_\_. The awesome glory of God became \_\_\_\_\_ in a person. God's entire plan for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world was wrapped up in a helpless infant—Jesus, our Emmanuel: God with us.

When we \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is our Emmanuel: God with us and when we \_\_\_\_\_ this truth in our lives, it can \_\_\_\_\_ us and our everyday day experience.

### HOW EMMANUEL IMPACTS OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

**#1. God is with us and we can hold on to this promise when we're \_\_\_\_\_.**  
“In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the

Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid.’” (Luke 2:8-10)

Time and time again, we hear Jesus saying to His disciples \_\_\_\_\_. He spoke these and similar words of comfort and \_\_\_\_\_ because He saw so many fears and anxieties in the lives of those around Him—people paralysed and enslaved by fear and \_\_\_\_\_; harassed and helpless like sheep with out a shepherd.

### What are you afraid of?

#### What keeps you awake at night, staring into the darkness?

In the midst of our \_\_\_\_\_ moments and deepest fears, Christmas comes with the message that we don't need to be \_\_\_\_\_ because Jesus is our Emmanuel and God \_\_\_\_\_ with us! And God is \_\_\_\_\_ than all our fears.

“What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us...Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:31; 35-38)

We don't need to be afraid because no matter what's happening in our lives—no matter what our fears—God promises to be with us—to give us His comfort, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_—and to help see us through.

### Is Jesus your Emmanuel? Do you know His presence with you? Who or what do you turn to when you're feeling afraid?

**#2. God is with us and we can hold on to this promise when we're alone and \_\_\_\_\_.**

“For see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people.” (Luke 2:10)

It's unfortunate that at a time when we sing songs like; *Joy to the World*; so many people feel anything but \_\_\_\_\_.

There are many people in our world who are desperately seeking \_\_\_\_\_, love, and \_\_\_\_\_. People who aren't just alone, but \_\_\_\_\_.

Christmas is traditionally a time to get together with family and friends—to attend

dinner and parties. Indeed, for many people, Christmas is **also** one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ times of the year.

The pain of \_\_\_\_\_ in all its forms can often return during the holiday season, bringing with it feelings of loneliness and \_\_\_\_\_.

Christmas comes with the message that we're \_\_\_\_\_ alone because Jesus is our Emmanuel and God \_\_\_\_\_ with us.

### GOD'S PROMISE TO ALWAYS BE WITH US

"I am with you always—even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you." (John 14:18)

"I will never leave you, nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

"If you seek me, you will find me, if you seek me with all your heart." (Jer 29:13)

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." (James 4:8)

These are more than just \_\_\_\_\_ on a page—they are God's \_\_\_\_\_ to always be with us no matter how lonely or alone we might feel. Unlike us, God is \_\_\_\_\_ to keep His Word and we can \_\_\_\_\_ these promises.

Jesus visited our world to \_\_\_\_\_ the gap between us and God—to bring us back to God—and to bring us \_\_\_\_\_ where we truly belong—where we find true love and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Is Jesus your Emmanuel? Do you know His presence with you?**

**Who or what do you turn to when you're feeling alone or lonely?**

**#3. God is with us and we can hold on to this promise at the \_\_\_\_\_ of our days.**

"To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

\_\_\_\_\_ is what Christmas is all about.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16)

Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection God offers us three \_\_\_\_\_:

- \_\_\_\_\_ for our \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ freedom from our \_\_\_\_\_ problems
- \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

However, like any gift, God's gift of salvation needs to be \_\_\_\_\_ before it can be enjoyed. And we can't really enjoy life until we've come to terms with \_\_\_\_\_.

"Jesus became like us to set free those who were slaves to their lives because of fear of death." (Hebrews 2:15)

Christmas comes with the message that all will be \_\_\_\_\_ because Jesus is our Emmanuel and God \_\_\_\_\_ with us. God doesn't want us to \_\_\_\_\_ death—that's what Christmas is all about—that's why He gave us Jesus and promises us \_\_\_\_\_ life with Him.

**Is Jesus your Emmanuel? Do you know His presence with you?**

**Who or what do you turn to when you think about your final days?**

In the coming of Jesus, God took off the \_\_\_\_\_ robes of heaven, put on the rags of \_\_\_\_\_ and became one of us. The Light of the World stepped down into \_\_\_\_\_—out of His holy splendour into the squaller of our \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus, our Emmanuel, \_\_\_\_\_ where we walk; lived, died, rose again, and will return in clouds of glory so that we could know the \_\_\_\_\_ and forgiveness, mercy and \_\_\_\_\_, strength and comfort of God's presence today, tomorrow, and for eternity.

In all times and in all places, no matter what our \_\_\_\_\_—God is with us.

No matter how hard he tried, the Grinch couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas. And no matter how hard COVID tries, it can't steal Christmas either. Even though our celebrations will look very different this year, you can't \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas.

**The Grinch eventually understood this truth. The question is: Do you?**

What better time than Christmas to welcome Jesus into your \_\_\_\_\_ and into your life in a fresh new way?

What better time to \_\_\_\_\_ the true meaning and purpose of Christmas?

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15)