Advent Devotions 2022: God With Us

"Watch for this—a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son; They will name him Immanuel" (Hebrew for 'God is with us'). Matthew 1:23 (MSG)

GOD IS WITH US IN THE MANGER

Jesus, God's Son, the fulfillment of Old Testament prophesy, was sent by God to bring man back into relationship with Him. Jesus, the long-promised Immanuel, came not as mighty ruler or military commander, but as a helpless infant.

"*All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. 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 14:7 (NLT)

Jesus, the Word of God made flesh, born in a stable and laid in a manger.

"*So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."* John 1:14

"The manger was a sign—When the angel appeared to the shepherds in the field to invite them to visit the newborn King, he told them to look for a baby in a manger. The manger wasn't just a sign for the shepherds; it's a sign to all of us that Jesus is accessible to everyone who seeks Him. The shepherds would not have had access to a baby born in a royal palace, and as strangers, they probably wouldn't even have had access to a baby born in the confines of a family home. But a manger was accessible to all—and still is." **(**Annette Marie Griffin, award-winning author and speaker who has managed and directed children's and youth programs for more than 20 years. https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/meaning-and-significance-of-the-manger.html**)**

Jesus, Emmanuel ('God with us'), accessible to everyone, then and now.

Dear Lord, thank you for coming to us in a way that is forever accessible to us. I acknowledge how You humbled yourself in coming to us in human form, being placed in a lowly manger. You are Immanuel, 'God with us', now and always. In Jesus name, Amen.