

Monthly Devotion

DECEMBER

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

Matthew 1:23



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At this time of year, we could be excused for thinking that Christmas is about glitz, glamour, presents and the consumption of vast amounts of food and drink. We have lost sight of a very basic reality that God with unimaginable love comes among us. God became one of us.

It is interesting that whether or not people say they believe they still attend church at Christmas to sing carols and listen to and watch this story played out in front of them. They listen to this story of a young girl, named Mary who is visited by an angel and told that she is to be the mother of God's son, and of Joseph, to whom she is betrothed who is told to stand by her.

This is a story of ordinary people, called to do extraordinary things by God, and it causes us to pause just for a moment, to reflect on what love looks like.

We are called to focus on a vulnerable child, placed in an animal feeding trough as there is no room for him anywhere else. A child who holds the truth of life and intimately understands the need for love; love for ourselves. Love for those who are important to us but also love for those who we do not know or actively chose to ignore.

The arrival of a tiny baby over two thousand years ago shows us that, LOVE is active in our world because God is with us, - Immanuel.

In the bleakness and struggles of the world today we can rejoice that 'Love came down at Christmas' and brings LIGHT and HOPE to our lives.



Love Came Down at Christmas

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.
Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

To Pray

May this eternal truth be always on our hearts
That the God who breathed this world into being
Placed stars into the heavens
And designed a butterfly's wing
Is the God who entrusted his life
to the care of ordinary people
became vulnerable that we might know
how strong is the power of Love
A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp
A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore

Amen

Our monthly devotion is written by Susan Hutchinson
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